


IN
COLOUR:

ACTION FROM SCOTLAND V ENGLAND

SHOOT!

15p

17th JUNE,
1978



Bristol City defender
Norman Hunter and
Arsenal's Malcolm
Macdonald share a
joke during the game
at Highbury.

JOHAN CRUYFF'S FAREWELL

FACTS AND FIGURES OF HIS CAREER

Australia — 40c; New Zealand — 40c; South Africa — 40c; Malaysia — \$1.10; Italy — L.500; Denmark — Kr.4.65; Canada — 40c.



Happy Uruguayan players (left) do a lap of honour after beating Argentina in the 1930 Final. Favourites Hungary (dark shirts, right) were beaten by Germany 3-2 in 1954.



It was on July 13, 1930, that the first-ever World Cup Final was played in the Centenario Stadium, Montevideo, when Uruguay — already reigning Olympic football Champions of 1924 and '28 — beat Argentina 4-2 to become rulers of the World game.

At that time the British Association, having withdrawn from F.I.F.A. in 1928 over the question of "broken time", took no part in the

show on earth is all part of politics, packaging and promotion, a massive act of commercialism where money does most of the talking.

In due course, doubtless, it will grow even bigger as the emerging countries of Africa demand a greater share of the limelight.

Iran, of the Middle East, for one are looking realistically to the future. Having qualified for Argentina they await the day when their

GEOFFREY GREEN of *The Times*, one of the most respected football-writers in Britain, has covered many World Cup tournaments during his long and distinguished Fleet Street career.

Here he looks back on the highlights of . . .

THE GREATEST

Championship. In any case the English had something else to occupy their minds.

On that July day so long ago Don Bradman was busy taking 300 runs off the England attack in the Headingley Test Match.

In such a sporting national crisis who the hell cared about foreigners playing each other at football in mid summer many thousands of miles away?

Indeed, I'll wager that few of us in these islands — where football was first organised and grew — even knew about such a thing as a World Cup in those days. How different now!

Although for the second time running England have failed to qualify for the final stages there remains a wide interest in the prospects and hopes of Scotland making their mark in Argentina this summer.

Hundreds of Scots will cross the Southern Atlantic to cheer on their braves in the royal blue shirts: whether the adventurers who are said to have hired a submarine from Holland to make the trip complete their audacious project remains to be seen. Anyway, it remains a lovely idea.

Where originally only 13 nations contested the 1930 tournament, now the entries have grown to the 100 mark as teams from the four corners of the globe have fought (sometimes literally) to qualify for the final 16 places.

It is all part of the contribution made by modern mass media, with television by satellite providing instant coverage of events across the world.

Now, too, the greatest soccer

modern 130,000 capacity stadium built in Teheran may become a focal point for the global game.

Nor should one forget the aspirations of the oil-rich Saudi Arabians, or China (when they eventually force their way into membership with F.I.F.A.); or the United States, the masters of promotion, publicity and razzmatazz.

All these await their bonanza in a game which no longer belongs exclusively to Europe or South America.

Deep fear

For some time a question mark hovered over Argentina as a feasible stage for the XIth World Cup. The national economy was said to be unstable; there was general political unrest in the country with a deep seated fear of terrorist activity. Cold water has now been poured on all such doubts.

Even so, it seems that this summer's World Cup football will be played in virtually an armed camp which promises to outstrip even the massive security operations that surrounded the 1974 Championships in West Germany.

This is what football has grown to. Nonetheless the game is a chord of unity — and sometimes disunity — between nations. A World Cup these days is a mighty Tower of Babel of many voices; a marriage of many different cultures. It is an occasion that can bring out the best and the worst in people.

How vastly different from the small beer of its start nearly half a

century ago when the Rumanian side that went by ship to Montevideo was chosen by their King Carol.

Looking across the years the World Cup has produced a number of miscellaneous items that are worth a moment of consideration. For instance, of the ten Finals played so far in seven of them the side that scored first at the climax failed to win the Cup.

Indeed, since the last War only Brazil have succeeded in this when the immortal Pelé headed them ahead in Mexico in 1970 which led to their 4-1 destruction of Italy before a 110,000 crowd in the Aztec Stadium in Mexico City.

In ten World Cups, too, the host nation has reached the Final on six occasions, proving the eventual Champions four times.

So, historically, Argentina must now have the odds on their side. Whether, also, it will prove to be a Championship of flowing attack or defensive fear remains to be seen as I write, but I doubt if the highest individual goalscorers of the past will have their positions usurped.

The leading quartet at present are: — Fontaine (France), 13 goals in Sweden in 1958; Kocsis (Hungary), 11, in 1954 in Switzerland; Müller (West Germany), ten, in Mexico 1970, and Eusebio (Portugal), nine, in England 1966.

Masters since the War, of course, have been Brazil. Champions in 1958, '62, and '70 and beaten Finalists in Rio in 1950. The original Jules Rimet Cup (the real name of the trophy) has become their property *in perpetua* by virtue of winning it three times.

A new trophy — called the

F.I.F.A. Cup, but still known universally as the World Cup — was presented in 1974 when the West Germans, under the shrewd guidance of their manager Helmut Schoen, and the calm, polished captaincy of Franz Beckenbauer, became its first holders. Who takes it from them now, or whether they retain it, is in the lap of the gods.

But to return to the ebony skills of Brazil. They are the ones who have shown the world how to play football. Hungary under Puskas, Boszik, Hidegkuti, and Kocsis, did so for a spell between 1947 and '54 but failed to win the crown in the Final of 1954 when as favourites they lost 2-3 to Germany in Switzerland after being two up in the opening minutes.

Those magical Magyars were the best team produced by Europe in the last 30 years. Yet in the final analysis their record pales before the achievements of Brazil whose best side in my opinion was that of 1958 when they won majestically in Stockholm 5-2 against Sweden.

What a meeting that would have made with both teams at their zenith — Hungary 1954 v Brazil 1958. That would have been a gift for the gods!

But time has its own way and destiny its own rules. Who would have won such a contest I dare not say. But the Brazil of 1958, with the emerging 17-year-old phenomenon Pelé, Didi, and Garrincha, the match winning outside-right with the corkscrew legs that seemed to have been struck by lightning, brought a new dimension to attack with their 4-2-4 tactical line-up, just as the Hungarians earlier had sprung Hidegkuti on an astonished

world as the deep-lying, withdrawn centre-forward.

But for 30 years now Brazil's football has had a dionysiac quality about it. It is a dance of irrational surprise, daring, sensitive and streaked with fantasy.

The Brazilians, in fact, play with joy and a sense of freedom since football to them was a means of emancipation.

It was their innate, inborn skill that first opened the door for the negro to enter a white man's world. Since when in the main they have proved that black can be beautiful as they have transformed football into an idiom of jazz-samba.

The first World Cup held after the War came in Brazil in 1950. Twelve years stretched bleakly from the previous tournament in France in 1938, won by Italy under Vittorio Pozzo, their great manager, for the second time.

Throughout those War years Pozzo had kept the trophy hidden in his bedroom, safe from the grabbing claws of the Nazis. For that alone he deserves his place in football history.

Brazil 1950 was notable for a number of reasons. To begin with the British Associations had



England at last participating for the first time.

Ironically it was on their heads that there exploded the greatest sensation yet in the world game.

Yankeed!

With men like Billy Wright, Tom Finney, Stanley Mortensen, Roy Bentley, Wilf Mannion and Jimmy Mullen on the field — Stanley Matthews was rested for the occasion in anticipation of later demands — an unknown, undistinguished American polyglot team won 1-0 at Belo Horizonte to set a cat among the doves of the



ABOVE . . . Brazil's Garrincha is foiled by French goalkeeper Abbes during the Semi-Final clash in 1958.

LEFT . . . The talented Brazilians went on to beat Sweden, the host country, 5-2 in the Final.

SOCCER SHOW ON EARTH

returned to the fold of F.I.F.A. in 1946 and as part of the qualifying process for Rio it was decided that the top two sides in the British Championship would be entitled to take part in the final stages.

England beat Scotland 1-0 at Hampden Park to take the home title, but though the Scots were second they refused to participate as runners-up.

Final pool

It was a short-sighted insular attitude for which they were to pay heavily four years later.

Next, for the first and last time, the contestants were divided into four pools, the winners of each competing in a final pool where all played all, the victor being decided on a points system and not a straight knock-out. For this prestigious occasion, too, a vast new stadium was erected in Rio; Maracana, a breathtaking coliseum under the shadow of Corcovado mountain at the summit of which stood the giant, golden figure of Christ floodlit at night.

With the passage to the New World simplified by air travel, time had stepped into a new age with

world game.

It was as if the United States had beaten England in a Test match at Lord's; or we had beaten them at baseball in the Yankee Stadium. It was beyond belief.

Be that as it may the winners of the four groups proved to be Brazil, Uruguay, Sweden and Spain. While Brazil, with a wonderful inside forward trio of Zizinho, Ademir, and Jair, demolished Spain 6-1 and Sweden 7-1, the Swedes held Uruguay surprisingly to a 2-2 draw.

The last match was between Brazil and Uruguay and upon it rested the title. Thus with Uruguay having dropped a point to the Swedes all Brazil needed with their vastly superior goal average was a draw. It looked all over bar the dancing.

Yet not for the first time, nor doubtless the last, the favourites went down. Brazil, indeed, made the fateful error of celebrating in advance.

A victory samba was composed in their honour, but never came to be played.

Before a 205,000 crowd Brazil took the lead after half-time amidst scenes of delirious joy. But before the end goals by Schiaffino and Ghiggia, the outside-right, gave Uruguay a sensational 2-1 triumph

The World Cup was stolen in 1966 but thanks to Pickles (below) it was found. Bobby Moore (right) shows off the Cup after England's triumph.



Continued on page 4

which led to a spate of Brazilian suicides and many people running amok with revolvers in Rio that tragic evening. It took Brazil eight years to recover from that shock.

Switzerland in 1954 again produced the unexpected. Hungary, unbeaten in four years, and the Olympic Champions of 1952 in Helsinki, were the odds-on favourites.

In November, 1953 they had made history by being the first Continental team to win on English soil, opening our eyes with a 6-3 triumph at Wembley and following it with a 7-1 victory over the "original masters" in Budapest in the following May, a mere month or so before the World Cup began.

On that occasion the format was changed again. The 16 contending nations were divided into four groups with a seeded team to head each sector and the two survivors from each to form the eight Quarter-Finalists at which point it became a knockout tournament.

Oddly, however, each side only played two of the four in their group which allowed the shrewd Sepp Herberger, the German manager, to take advantage of the situation.

Facing Hungary in their group the Germans played a weakened side composed largely of reserves.

Duly beaten 8-3, Herberger had kept his powder dry for the big day and in the process saw Puskas, the dangerous Hungarian captain, badly injured.

Confident

Beating Turkey 7-2 in a play-off the Germans moved into the last eight and eventually the Final in Berne where, as expected, Hungary waited confident that they needed only to kick-off to claim the accolade of World Champions.

On a grey day of slanting rain and wind fate again played into German hands. Hungary decided to risk Puskas, considering it only right that as team captain he should be on parade to collect the prize from the hands of Jules Rimet, the president of F.I.F.A. It proved an unwise decision in the end.

Although Puskas himself and Czibor put Hungary two goals up before the Germans could find their feet in the wet that proved to be the end of the road for the magical Magyars.

They hit the German posts and crossbar about five or six times; saw Turek, the goalkeeper, make a series of unbelievable saves; found themselves pulled back to 2-2 by half-time and eventually lost 3-2 near the end as Rahn, the German outside-right, scored his second and winning goal.

Herberger and his clever captain, Fritz Walter, had planned their campaign perfectly and with considerable help from the fates became World Champions.

Twenty years later the partnership, off and on field, of Schoen and Beckenbauer was to repeat the Ayrian triumph.

The one major sore of the 1954 World Cup was the "Battle of Berne" when Hungary and Brazil played a match of ferocious violence between two countries of

widely different philosophies.

Hungary wished to show that Communism was unbeatable in any field of endeavour; Brazil, the real culprits of the trouble, wanted to prove that they were the masters of football.

Neither side could afford to lose and it was a tragic shambles. As an American said cruelly that night: "What else can you expect of Negro Brazilians who are only 20 minutes out of the trees?" ...

As it was England reached the Quarter-Finals where they lost a good match 4-2 to Uruguay on a day when the programme set out the name of Stanley Matthews as 'St. Matthews'.

He certainly played like a Saint against talented South Americans who had earlier smashed Scotland 7-0, reducing them to Highland cattle standing dejectedly in a drizzle on some lonely hillside.

Within the next four years Brazil learned discipline, controlled determination and the meaning of team work.

With these new-found qualities, the midfield direction of Didi, and the arrival of new individual magicians in the young Pele, Garrincha, Vava at centre-forward, and Zagalo (later to be their successful manager in the years ahead) Brazil at last claimed what they had always felt to be their birthright.

They brought a studious new pattern of 4-2-4 to their game but still expressed their joy for the game in a fantasy of attack.

An early goal down to Sweden, the hosts, in the Final at the Rasunda Stadium, they made light of the wet conditions after a night of rain which left the red rooftops of Stockholm gleaming.

Killing the ball dead as if it were a lump of cotton wool, they ran out the winners 5-2 with two of the goals coming from Pelé, a youngster stepping on to the stage of world fame for the first time and who was overcome with emotion at the end in a cascade of tears as the Brazilian side, in a wonderful gesture of friendship, ran a lap of honour with a giant Swedish flag.

That and Mexico 1970 — the end of Pelé's historic reign of 1,000 goals — were the most enjoyable of all the World Cups I saw.

The year 1962 saw Chile as the hosts, a country that remarkably recovered in time to stage the title in the wake of a devastating earthquake.

Vicious

Sadly, however, it was a tournament of negative defensive fear and bad temper, highlighted by a vicious match between Italy and Chile almost on a low par with the "Battle of Berne" eight years earlier.

England reached the Quarter-Finals only to lose 3-1 to Brazil who once more proved unstoppable in spite of being without Pelé from the Second Round.

Suffering a badly pulled muscle his place was superbly taken by Amarildo while Garrincha emerged as the player of the tournament.

As so often before the eventual losers, Czechoslovakia, scored first in the Final through Masopust.



But it was the Brazilian attacking flair that took them home by 3-1 for their second successive world title.

England was the historic theatre in 1966, an event not only memorable for their first ever success as they beat the dependable, combative West Germans 4-2 at Wembley after extra-time, but for the fact that the precious Jules Rimet World Cup was stolen while on display in a shop window in the Strand, London.

It took a dog named Pickles to find it again just in time before the tournament began.

It was The Queen who declared the Games open at Wembley on a sunny afternoon and it was Her Majesty three weeks later, on another sunny afternoon hit by a couple of sudden squalls of summer rain, who eventually presented the Cup to Bobby Moore, the English captain.

Along the way we saw Alf Ramsey's new tactical plan of 4-3-3 — his "wingless wonders" — triumph as he had promised for two years; we saw the surprising little 'Diddy men' of North Korea upset powerful Italy at Middlesbrough and almost repeat the performance as they led Portugal 3-0 in the Quarter-Finals only to be struck by the black lightning of Eusebio, who scored four times to pull back the Portuguese to 5-3; we saw the great Pelé brutalised by first the Bulgarians and then Portugal as he was prematurely kicked out of the tournament.

Brazil, growing long in the tooth and relying too much on men whose arteries were hardening, were out of sorts and comprehensively demolished 3-1 by a fine Hungarian team uplifted by Albert and Bene in attack.

Though Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick in the Final (the only one so far in World Cup history), England's 4-3-3 tactics only led to much sterile football over the next decade as clubs got on to the winning bandwagon without possessing the right players for the job.

Altitude

Mexico 1970 arrived with many preconceived fears. There was the daunting prospect of altitude and fierce heat: the threat of violence on the field, and murder, unrest and anarchy off it following the ruthless gunning down of students by state police at the Mexican Olympics two years earlier.

Some of us went there expecting to end up in some shallow, unmarked grave on a lonely hillside.

In the event it turned out one of the most peaceful, entertaining World Cups since the War to prove that fear is one of the most wasteful of energies.

Following their unhappy experiences in England in 1966, Brazil came to the fray refreshed.

Many of the old hands had



departed, but Pelé — who had said he would never play in the World Cup again after being brutally cut down at Goodison Park four years before — was on parade again for the fourth time since 1958.

With him were other players of typical Brazilian flair such as Tostao, Jairzinho, Gerson, Rivelino, Carlos Alberto (the captain at full-back) and Clodoaldo.

The new mixture brought forth an exhilarating brew of attack with Pelé, now in his 30th year, once again living up to his world renown.

During the Championship I had had the temerity to say to some Brazilian journalists that Alfredo di Stéfano — of Argentina, later a

naturalised Spaniard who led Real Madrid to the heights of club football — on his day had proved the greatest all-round footballer in all history.

Pulverised

I was shot down in flames by my South American colleagues. "Di Stéfano," they said, "was manufactured on earth. But Pelé came from Heaven."

Certainly he performed like an angel at times as Brazil won all their six matches to regain the World Crown as they pulverised Italy in the Final by 4-1.

The Brazilian defence was porous on occasion. But attack was their joyful strength. It was meat and drink to them as Gerson and Rivelino set the ball rolling in mid-field and Pelé and Tostao finished things off up-front, with the long striding outside-right Jairzinho scoring in every match.

Thus, winning the Jules Rimet Cup for the third time in history, they kept the trophy as their personal property for ever more. The whole Brazilian nation went delirious with joy and that Samba that never got played in 1950 at last took wings in the thin air.

There were many things to remember that summer as the sun beat down like a blistering, hot iron.

Firm refereeing from the start cut out the rough stuff, which proved a happy surprise, as did the way most of the Europeans adapted to the Mexican altitude.

There were also three matches of high drama — Brazil's 1-0 defeat of England at Guadalajara which, in fact, was the hardest match the new Champions were to face.

England, indeed, could have saved, or even won, that titanic struggle in a temperature in the upper 90s.

It was then that Gordon Banks achieved his world-shattering save from Pelé's header; and after Jairzinho had scored for Brazil from Pelé's subtle pass, Astle missed an inglorious sitter in front of an open goal while Ball hit the crossbar near the end. Brazil gratefully breathed again.

Yet England, the holders, moved into the Quarter-Finals with a side which Sir Alf Ramsey rated as better than the one that had lifted the title in 1966.

It was at this stage of the last eight that there came the deepest drama of all at Leon as England faced West Germany for a place in the Semi-Finals.

With only 20 minutes left England led 2-0. It was all over, it seemed. But at that point Bobby Charlton, a key figure, and Martin Peters were pulled off the field in preparation for the expected Semi-Final and substituted by Hunter and Bell.

In a flash the Germans, who never give in till the final whistle,

Pelé (top of page) turns away after scoring Brazil's opening goal in their 4-1 victory against Italy in 1970. Can West Germany (below) retain the trophy they won in 1974?



struck. Beckenbauer, released from shadowing Charlton, shot home for 2-1; with only minutes left to the whistle Seeler equalised off the back of his head; and in extra-time Müller won a fantastic match of recovery for Germany 3-2.

Poor Bonetti, replacing Banks in goal who had become sick in the morning, took much of the blame in defeat — unfairly in my opinion.

But the fates were waiting for the Germans. The Semi-Final saw them lose a highly dramatic see-saw duel to Italy by 4-3 in extra-time to show that attack once more was in flower.

Indeed, the two Semi-Finals and the Final produced a total of 16 goals and the world suddenly seemed young again.

So to the last and tenth World Cup so far — in West Germany, 1974, when a new trophy was presented for competition by F.I.F.A.

For the fourth time in history the prize went to the host nation as Germany, on the west bank of the Berlin Wall, got home in the Final 2-1 against Holland, who had emerged as the most exciting and entertaining side in the field.

Inspired by Johan Cruyff, their new conception of "total football" made them the team to tingle the senses and it was only their own arrogance that lost them the Final and the Cup.

Hooked up

A goal up inside 60 seconds from a penalty after Cruyff had been hooked up — not a German had touched the ball at that point — the Dutch proceeded to tease the Germans before their own supporters in the 80,000 capacity new Olympic Stadium in Munich.

They paid for it dearly. Jack Taylor, of Wolverhampton, the English referee, gave Germany a penalty for Bretnier to make it 1-1 and with Germany mending their bridges Müller shot them ahead to 2-1 by the interval.

There it stood to the end and not for the first time the best side in the Championship was denied its honour.

Helmut Schoen, the wily 'desert fox' of a manager, and Beckenbauer, Germany's elegant captain, had done it again as had Sepp Herberger and Fritz Walter 20 years earlier.

For the rest it was an uneasy Championship spiced by fear of revolutionary action by desperate political dissidents which forced a massive security operation sufficient to swamp freedom of expression on the field.

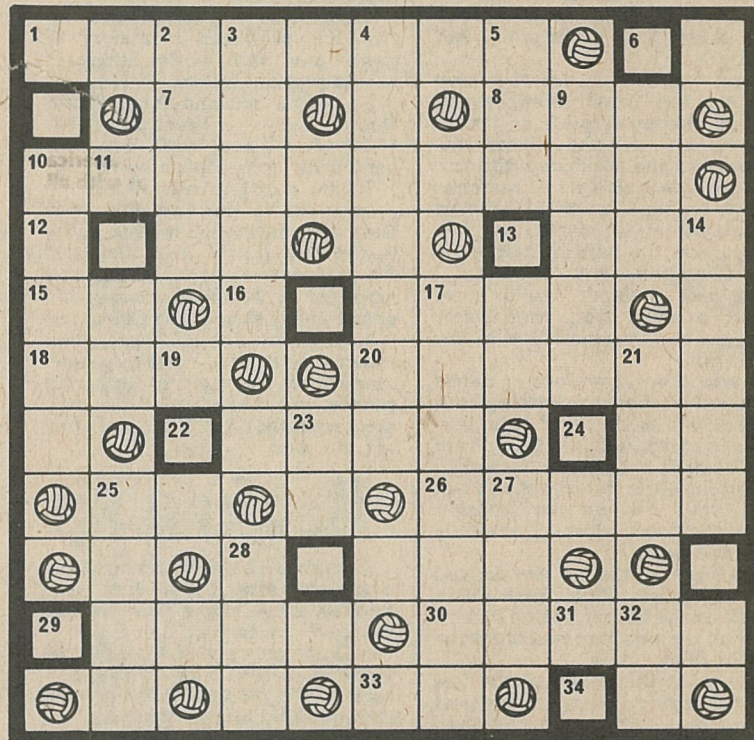
Sadly, England were absent (beaten in the qualifying stages by Poland, the surprise packet, who gained third place to add to their Olympic title of 1972); Scotland went home unbeaten but eliminated from their group on goal difference; and, saddest of all perhaps, Brazil emerged as a side of ruthless, cynical defence with all their old pride of attacking flair thrown to the winds.

So to the present. We await events. For myself, I echo the song of Evita: "Don't cry for me, Argentina." I'll watch it all on the box beside a bottle of Scotch.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Ipswich Town striker.

Answers on page 46.



ACROSS:—

- (1) Tony —, Nottingham Forest striker.
- (6) Dave Cle—nt of Queens Park Rangers.
- (7) Oak—ll, Barnsley's ground.
- (8) C—nt—l Park, Cowdenbeath.
- (10) Nickname of Everton. (3 & 7).
- (12) The F.A. might well — a player for bad conduct.
- (13) Transfer of the ball between players.
- (15) Roger Osb—ne of Ipswich Town.
- (16) —t-mfo— Br—dg— (Chelsea). Elevated from the missing letters.
- (18) Liverpool's colour.
- (20) Straight. One type of free-kick for instance. (See also 4)
- (22) Take five letters from Filbert Street to show opposition.
- (24) Po—tmo—h... otherwise Pompey.
- (25) Sammy —cliro— of Manchester United.
- (26) Make an artist's stand from letters in Chelsea.
- (28) Take five letters from Notts County for bright conditions!
- (29) Gary —, Chelsea full-back.
- (30) David —, West Ham United striker.
- (33) Peter —lls, Southampton 'keeper.
- (34) Peter —bble of Burnley.

DOWN:—

- (1) English Division Three club from Vicarage Road ground.
- (2) Sid — (Luton). "Footballer of The Year", 1958/9.
- (3) Discourage or hinder.
- (4) Law 11 covers this. For this infringement the other type of free-kick is awarded.
- (5) Ray Clemence for instance.
- (6) Don —on of Scotland, international.
- (9) SHOOT has hundreds of thousands of them!
- (11) M—ddl—sb—oug—. "Pay for use" from the omissions.
- (14) Decides... an argument for instance.
- (17) A boring game might result in this from the crowd instead of the normal noise.
- (19) Mick —oche—t— of Sunderland.
- (21) Alan —rbishl—y of West Ham United.
- (23) Glasgow Rangers' colour.
- (25) Turf —, Burnley's ground.
- (27) — United were relegated last term from the Premier Div.
- (28) Coventry City: The — Blues.
- (31) Tony Mah—ey of Fulham.
- (32) Bryan Rob—n of West Bromwich Albion.



I'VE RECEIVED a very interesting and flattering letter from Father Liam Brosnam who lives in San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A.

Since he was a 14-year-old boy in Killarney, Ireland, Father Brosnam has collected autographs.

He writes: "I'm interested in people who have distinguished themselves in their particular field and have over 6,000 authentic signatures."

Among Father Brosnam's most prized autographs are those of Gandhi, President Nasser, Pope Paul VI, Pope John, General McArthur, Marilyn Munro, The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Humphrey Bogart and several American Presidents.

Apparently the Father has only been refused twice... by our own Queen Elizabeth and a young starlet attending a charity function with Bob Hope.

Her Majesty regretted she was not allowed to sign autographs, although she has since sent one to Australian cricketer Dennis Lillee last summer.

The starlet? She was just showing off in front of Bob Hope.

Father Brosnam saw me playing for Manchester United on TV and wants my photograph and signature to add to his very unique and I suppose valuable collection.

I'm extremely proud to think I'll be placed alongside some of the world's greatest names.

There's a photo on its way to you in San Antonio, Father.

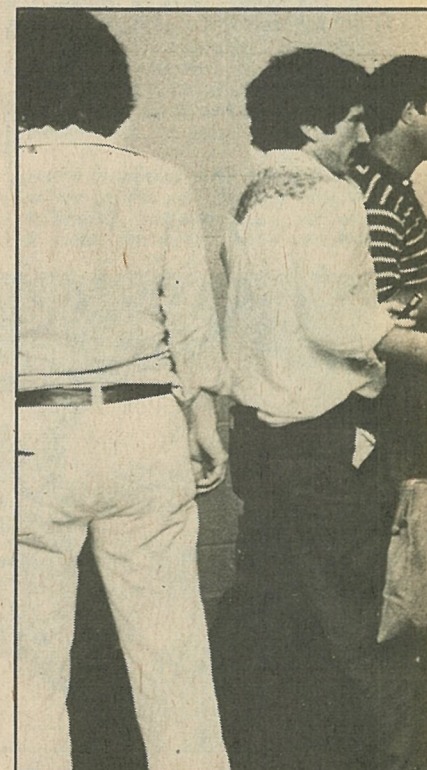
Actually, I know that part of the world very well, having played there several times during my spell in the States with Chicago Sting in the

summer of 1975.

What a tremendous experience that was. I enjoyed every minute of my stay in America.

Like all "imported" players, I had my own fully furnished apartment, car and first class treatment wherever I went.

I loved the American people. They were so friendly and went out of their way to make me feel com-



Rodney Marsh (left) . . . one of a few top British stars now playing in the States permanently.

pletely at home.

That was three years ago, just before I signed for Manchester United from Millwall.

Since then, of course, soccer in the United States has really got off the ground.

Helping to establish the game in America are many British footballers, attracted by the lure of the dollar.

This year much controversy has raged because some clubs allowed players to leave before our League season ended.

As an article in the June 3rd issue of SHOOT pointed out, Charlton's Mike Flanagan, Colin Powell and Laurie Abrahams went out to play for the New England Tea Men and



the Londoners were almost relegated.

Charlton were condemned by many critics for their actions . . . but I don't blame them for taking full advantage of the money offered by the Americans.

Manager Andy Nelson took a calculated risk and it came off. A brave decision.

The cash will help clubs like Charlton remain financially secure, make ground improvements, buy new players and keep their stars.

A professional footballers' career is a short one and no one in their right mind is going to turn down the opportunity to make good money for three months' work during the close-season.

Trevor Francis jumped at the chance to earn a reported £60,000 in America this summer and was accused of money-grabbing and turning his back on Birmingham City.

That's ridiculous. This bonus will keep Trevor at St. Andrews next season.

Okay, so he could be missing for a couple of games at the start of the new season, and maybe that is a little unfair on the fans . . . but better to lose a player like Trevor for two games than for ever.

years, far more than he could expect over here. Even from a top club such as Man. City.

I am afraid this is a football fact of life. I can't see anything to stop our stars going across the Atlantic unless the F.A. introduce a new rule . . . or until the Americans breed their own stars. And that won't happen for a few years yet.

I don't want to play in the States on a full time basis, but I would like to go back next summer.

I was a little upset an American club didn't come in for me this summer.

Razzmatazz

Two of my Derby team-mates Charlie George and Gerry Daly are States-side . . . Charlie with Minnesota and Gerry with the Tea Men.

Some British players in America never really come to terms with all the razzmatazz that goes with soccer over there.

I loved it all . . . cheerleaders, instant play backs . . . sirens . . . gimmicks . . . the lot.

Everything over there is geared towards attracting whole families to matches and promoting the game.

It's a day out for mom, dad and all the kids. There's no hooliganism or violence — a welcome change from over here.

Obviously the Americans have nothing to teach us about techni-

'AMERICA WILL BECOME A TOP SOCCER NATION'



The Press are given every co-operation in America. Here Franz Beckenbauer answers reporters questions before stepping into the bath.

Another argument against our players going to the States is "too much football".

For years top stars have complained about the season being too long. Now when they have the chance of a rest they go off to play for another three months or so.

It's certainly a point to think about, but at the moment the N.A.S.L. is hardly the English First Division.

Soccer in the States is more a working holiday . . . a means of keeping in trim while enjoying the excitement of a fabulous country and earning a few bob.

The talent drain to the States will increase, there's no doubt about it. The big danger is more and more of our leading players will be tempted to transfer permanently, like George Best, Rodney Marsh and the former Manchester City and England winger Dennis Tueart.

Dennis will be earning something in the region of £250,000 over three

que or skill, but we can learn an awful lot about presentation and promoting the game.

In Britain I can't understand why so many clubs are publicity shy.

They offer little, or often no co-operation to the Press and media.

Surely, if you are in the entertainment business you rely on publicity to attract people to watch you. And there's no denying quite a few of our clubs could do with a lot more support.

Still, it's not my place to tell other clubs how to run their affairs.

Fortunately, Derby have a good relationship with the Press, SHOOT magazine in particular.

One thing is certain . . . the United States *will* become a top soccer nation within the next ten years.

With American drive, enthusiasm, and money anything is possible . . . even a World Cup victory before the turn of the century.

Cheers for now . . .

GRAHAM CROSS-promotion specialist

A PLAYER wondering what 1978-79 holds for him is Graham Cross. Graham completed last season with the unusual record of having played in three promotion sides.

He was with Leicester City when they returned to the First Division in 1971. Later moved to Brighton and was in their promotion side to Division Two and has now helped Preston back to the Second.

Graham said: "I still feel I have plenty to offer to football as a player, but have no idea at the moment what will happen next season."



While with Leicester Graham played in every position but one in the senior side. He received a £12,000 testimonial before he left.

And he describes Leicester's relegation as a "tragedy" for the city where he was born and still lives.

"Frankly I was very sorry to leave the club and to see them in the position they are now in is particularly distressing to me."

Cross, who played for Leicestershire at cricket for several years, trained last season at Filbert Street. He has a business in the city.

A SHOCK for Ipswich Town on the eve of the F.A. Cup Final. A man went berserk in their Hertfordshire hotel and started to ring all the alarm bells. It took 12 policemen to restrain and lead him away.

Understandably, several of the players were upset by the incident, although you wouldn't have guessed it by the way they played at Wembley the next day.

PORTSMOUTH will be the 14th club to have played in all four Divisions of the Football League. They join Bradford City, Bradford P.A. (now out of the League), Brentford, Bury, Carlisle, Coventry, Crystal Palace, Grimsby, Huddersfield, Luton, Northampton, Notts County and Oldham.

YORK CITY are only the second club to have been relegated from the Second and Third Divisions and then to have had to apply for re-election to the Fourth in three successive seasons. Lincoln had a similar experience in 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED'S talented 20-year-old centre-half Steve Fallon and 21-year-old midfielder Steve Spriggs have both signed new four-year contracts with the club.

But that won't deter Everton, Derby, Spurs, Coventry and West Brom from casting envious eyes — even though Cambridge have won promotion for two years running.

As general-manager Paddy Sowden admits: "I obviously don't want to sell, but every player has his price and you can't hold your best players for ever."

CARLISLE'S 13th MAN

FORMER Newcastle United and Scotland defender Bob Moncur and now manager of Third Division Carlisle United has registered himself as a player for next season.

But Bob was quick to point out he is not thinking of a regular place in the United League side.

He said: "You need 13 players travelling on overnight trips but dragging an extra man on long trips without him getting stripped is a bit soul destroying."

So Bob will in fact be Carlisle's 13th man next season.

Soccer 'Prince'

HE drives an air conditioned Pontiac . . . lives in a Villa which includes a table tennis room . . . video tape room . . . open air swimming pool. His staff consists of morning and evening house boys . . . a cook and a butler/chauffeur.

That's the life style of former West Brom boss Ronnie Allen who is now manager of the Saudi Arabian national team.

"It's all a bit like the Arabian Nights," says Mrs Cynthia Allen. "And Ronnie is treated like a prince."

PRESTON and Peterborough were the Football League's goalless draw specialists last season — each with ten.

But The Posh reached double figures when they didn't want to . . . in a decisive game at Wrexham.

Goalless draw number ten meant Preston were promoted on goal-difference at their expense with Champions Wrexham and Cambridge.

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

NEWS DESK readers have turned up trumps in response to my 6th May appeal for scrapbook material for Billy Gillespie, Sheffield United's famous skipper of the 1920's.

Two readers in particular should take a bow — Mr MacNamara of Harrow and Mr Bentley of St. John's Wood immediately despatched photographs of Billy in his hey-day and have made the old player very happy.

Thank you, lads, for your sporting and unselfish gesture.

BILLY AIMS TO BE 'SUPER FIT' FOR HAMMERS

WEST HAM striker Billy Jennings (right) missed the last seven months of the season with an Achilles tendon injury. And that proved another blow for injury hit Hammers who finally dropped into the Second Division after a 20 year spell in the top sphere.

Now Jennings, a £100,000 capture from Watford in September, 1974, is determined to train right through the summer to aid West Ham's attempt to climb straight back to the First Division.

Says Billy: "It has been one of the worst injuries in my career and there has been a lot of muscle wastage. But I have been on long training runs near my Chigwell home and aim to be super fit for the big kick-off in August."

Givens Going

DON GIVENS, Q.P.R.'s 28-year-old Eire striker, will almost certainly start next season with a new club.

Says Givens: "My contract is up at the end of June and Rangers have promised to let me go. I hope to stay in London and Spurs would suit me fine."

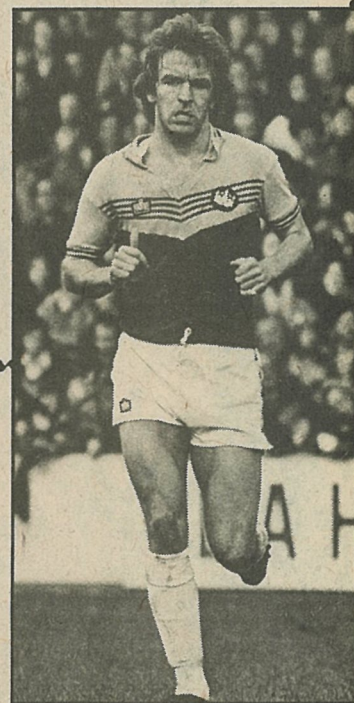
● Ballymena United's involvement in next season's European Cup-Winners' Cup now means only three of Ulster's 12 senior outfits, Bangor, Cliftonville and comparative newcomers Larne, have not qualified for Continental soccer.



SIXTH SKIPPER OF SEVENTIES

MILLWALL'S versatile Irish cap Bryan Hamilton (above), who topped 40-plus Northern Ireland appearances in the recent British Championship, became his country's sixth international skipper of the Seventies, when he led them in the series.

Ireland's five other captains of the decade have been Terry Neill (Arsenal and Hull), Derek Dougan (Wolves), Dave Clements (Everton), Allan Hunter (Ipswich), and Pat Jennings (then Spurs, now Arsenal), who captained his country in his record 60th appearance, v. England, in 1976.



Pedal Power

A FAMILIAR sight around the Derbyshire countryside these days is County's England international centre-half Roy McFarland on two wheels.

Last season Roy missed many games due to a leg injury. As therapy to restore First Division fitness for next term, the club trainer advised Roy to go bike riding.

Here Roy is about to get his talented feet off the ground on his Raleigh Merlin which he collected personally from the Raleigh depot at Sinfen.



F.A. Cup Review

SUPPORTERS who would like a fine souvenir of the 1977-78 F.A. Cup campaign, from the first qualifying round up to and including the Semi-Finals, need look no further than the "F.A. Cup Review 1978".

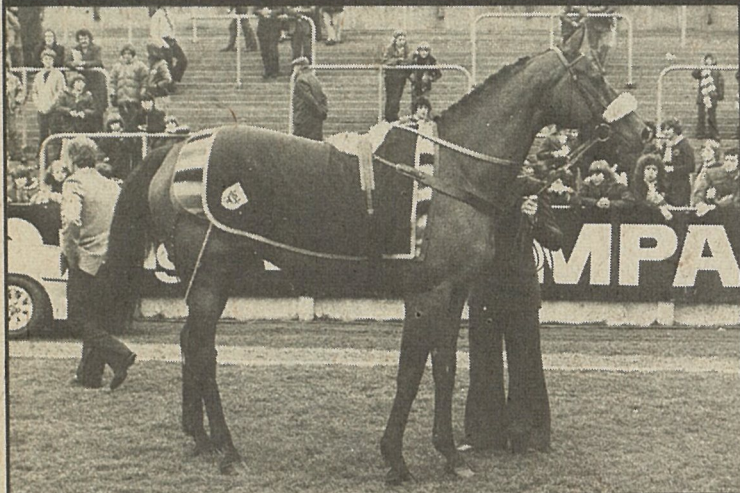
Produced by the Football Association and ITV's World of Sport, it can still be obtained from Tony Williams (Football Promotions) Ltd, 24 Baker Street, London W1M 1AE at £1.25.

● GLENTORAN striker Warren Feeney, Northern Ireland's top marksman in each of the past three campaigns, finished last term with 40 goals in all competitions, seven fewer than in 1976-77, but still high-class scoring from an often injury-hit Feeney, last season.

THREE time Grand National winner Red Rum was one of the star attractions at Millmoor, Rotherham recently. The occasion? Trevor Womble's testimonial.

A crowd of over 6,000 turned up to see an "All-time Greats XI" draw 2-2 with Rotherham.

Included in the Greats were such famous names as Bobby Charlton, John Charles and Bobby Collins.



SHREWSBURY Town, who finished in a mid-table Third Division position, were the season's hat-trick specialists with three-goal performances from four different players — Chic Bates, Sam Irvine, Ian Atkins and Paul Maguire.

OFF THE CUFF

MIDDLESBROUGH goalkeeper Pat Cuff, granted a free transfer, received a quick offer from Coventry City — to visit Japan. With Scottish international goalkeeper Jim Blyth on duty in the British Championship and World Cup Finals, the Sky Blues wanted cover for a vital position, so Cuff flew out on May 18 for a club tournament in the Land of the Rising Sun.

DESPITE Hereford United's relegation to the Fourth Division last season, one youngster in brilliant form was defender Steve Emery... a fact that did not go unnoticed by Manchester City.

Level-headed Taylor

GRAHAM TAYLOR — one of the most outstanding young managers in the game — is also one of the most level headed.

He proved that recently as Watford celebrated their runaway promotion from the Fourth Division.

Some people took it for granted that players of the Elton John backed club would be zooming off to some exotic place as a reward.

Wrong. They did not go anywhere — for Taylor did not see the Fourth Division Championship as anything to get excited about and decided to leave that sort of thing until Watford have really won something big.

DUMBARTON are to spend more money on their pitch at Boghead before the new season. About £20,000 has been spent in recent years to improve the playing surface. Despite these efforts Boghead can be a quagmire in the winter and dry as dust afterwards.

PLYMOUTH'S midfielder Micky Horswill could be on the move this summer... to Mansfield.

SOCCER IN THE STATES

Shoot-out beats Cosmos

T...I...M...B...E...R. The Cosmos have finally been beaten. And appropriately, it was the Portland Timbers who chopped down the NASL Champions.

But the Timbers needed a shoot-out to get the points and end the last unbeaten record in the League.

The Timbers are a revitalised side this summer under new coach Don Megson, who joined them from Bristol Rovers last November.

One of the main reasons is the form of ex-Manchester United winger Willie Anderson, who has been "perfect" according to his boss.

Anderson has been making the chances for ex-West Ham forward Clyde Best, formerly with the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

The Timbers have Jimmy Conway this season, too.

BEST OFF

GEORGE BEST is becoming the yawn of the season. After being suspended indefinitely by the L.A. Aztecs for missing training George decided to ask for forgiveness.

The club took him back — and played him 24 hours later in a match at Tulsa. Best, who still hasn't scored a goal this season, promptly got himself sent-off for fighting with Colin Waldron.

Steaming George then had a go at the referee, saying: "He was a typical amateur official who didn't understand the game. I'm sure the first thing he did when he got home was to call all his friends and tell them he sent George Best off."

'Hard' Wilson

ANOTHER European star has joined the Cosmos. He is Giuseppe Wilson, the 32-year-old Lazio defender and it is believed that fellow Italian and Cosmos striker Gorgio Chinaglia was instrumental in the signing.

Cosmos described Wilson as "hard", but David Johnson may feel this doesn't do the player justice. When playing for Ipswich against Lazio in a U.E.F.A. Cup-tie, Johnson was the victim of a foul described as "horrific". Wilson "tackled" Johnson waist-high and his studs narrowly missed the then Ipswich striker's thigh by inches.

IRISH PELE?

IRISHMAN Kevin Mahon has signed for NASL side New York Apollo — and should be good for a few goals.

Mahon once scored 12 goals for the Northern Ireland schoolboys team, which is an international record.

He also claims to have scored over 800 goals in his career — and he's only 22.

Either the Apollo have discovered an Irish Pele — or Mahon isn't too good at arithmetic.

World Cup release

FRANZ BECKENBAUER may have been refused permission to play for West Germany in the World Cup, but one NASL player managed to get the time off from his club to play in Argentina.

He's Iran's midfield player Parviz, who was released for a full month by San Jose Earthquakes.

Quakes coach Gabbo Garric admitted: "It's a unique situation, having a player leave his team in the middle of the season. But the World Cup is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Parviz, who was looking forward to facing Scotland in the group matches, is the Iran captain and had a record 91 caps before the World Cup kicked-off.

Tough break

JOHN HICKTON made over 450 first team appearances for Middlesbrough without receiving a serious injury. In his first game for Fort Lauderdale Strikers he scored — and broke a leg. Hickton signed a two-year contract for the American club in April.



GIRL'S GAME

IT SEEMS incredible but there are apparently more girls playing soccer in the States than any other team sport.

The hotbed is Washington DC which runs a women's League with almost 30,000 members.

That should start a rush of players wanting to sign up for Washington Diplomats the NASL club.

● Photo: Young girls at a soccer camp practise their skills.



Get on two wheels and you'll find parking a lot cheaper.

These days people who drive cars are finding they're missing out on a lot.

And their envious eyes tell them that people on motorbikes aren't.

Things like painless petrol costs. Cheap road tax.

The manoeuvrability to escape from those dreadful traffic jams.

And then when you want to park, you can. Usually for free.

All these things make motorbikes more suited to commuting and town

driving than any other vehicle.

Occasionally though, there are times when you do need a car. When you have to take the whole family out, for instance. Or when you get lumbered with a ton of shopping.

So what are you to do?

Driving the car around on two wheels won't cut your petrol costs. It takes a lot of practice too.

And you certainly won't fool any traffic wardens if you try to park in a free motorcycle bay.

The answer is simple really. Instead of having one or the other. Have both.

Get a motorbike as well and become a six wheel family. It's a lot cheaper than having a second car. You can run a lightweight motorbike at a quarter of the cost of an ordinary 1300 saloon car.

And it's a lot more fun.



For expert advice about motorcycles and motorcycle training schemes, consult your local dealer.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

ASK THE EXPERT

SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

£1 FOR EVERY LETTER PUBLISHED

The first step

As a very keen Liverpool fan, I'd like to know the result of their very first European game.

IAN BAILES,
MAESTEG

● Goes back quite a while, Ian — because winning at Wembley last season was their 97th European game spread over 14 successive seasons.

But Liverpool's very first of all was in Iceland on 17th August, 1964 — in the first-leg of the Preliminary Round of the European Cup.

The Reds won 5-0, and followed up 6-1 at Anfield, to beat Reykjavik 11-1 on aggregate.

They went on to reach the Semi-Final, losing 3-4 on aggregate to Inter-Milan.

Incidentally, Liverpool's complete European record — in all of the "Big Three" competitions — is now: Played 97; Won 56; Drawn 18; Lost 23; Goals 191 to 76.

51 men have worn the famous red shirt in those games.

Lucky 13 — For England

I'd like to know the score in England's biggest-ever win?

PETER TAY,
SINGAPORE

● It's 13-0 against Ireland in Belfast back on 18th February, 1882, Peter.

Some record-books include the 17-0 victory over Australia in Sydney on 30th June, 1951, but the F.A. don't recognise that as being a full international.

Best fully-recognised win in modern times was the 10-0 defeat of Portugal in Lisbon on 25th May, 1947.

The U.S.A. were also beaten 10-0 in 1964, and Luxembourg 9-0 in 1960.

John Mitchell

Is it true there was once a footballer who used to play for a Football League team wearing glasses?

CHEONG CHEE SENG,
SINGAPORE

● The chap you probably have in mind, Cheong, was John Mitchell, who kept goal for Preston North End in the years just after World War One.

Mitchell even wore specs in an F.A. Cup Final, too — against Huddersfield Town in the last pre-Wembley Final of 1922.

Alas for him, though, they didn't focus quick enough on the penalty-kick with which Huddersfield's Smith scored the only goal of the match!

Kevin Beattie

Can you tell me something about the career of my favourite English player, Kevin Beattie?

JEFF OVERALL,
AUSTRALIA

● Carlisle-born Beattie — who's just crowned his season with an F.A. Cup-

winners' medal — joined Ipswich as an apprentice in 1970, and was up-graded to full-professional status the following year.

After a number of England Youth and Under-23 appearances, he earned his first full cap against Cyprus in 1975.

Since then, despite being plagued by injuries, Beattie has gone on gaining more England caps, and has now played more than 200 League games for Ipswich.

American Imports

Could you tell me the percentages, from different countries, of foreigners playing in the North American Soccer League?

JOHN PENNANT,
CANADA

● The figures I've got, Jim, of the non-American contingent in the current line-ups is that roughly 65 per cent. are of British origin; 15 per cent. each West German and Yugoslav; and the remaining five per cent. from other assorted countries outside the North American continent.

Veteran Stan

Can you tell me when the great Sir Stanley Matthews played his last League game, and how old he was?

AZIZI BIN ALI,
WEST MALAYSIA

● It was for Stoke against Fulham on 6th February, 1965, Azizi — five days after his 50th birthday.

This made Sir Stan the oldest footballer ever to play in the First Division, though not in the whole Football League.

The record there is held by Neil McBain who, on 15th March, 1947, played in goal for New Brighton v. Hartlepool in the old Third Division (North) at the age of 52 years and four months.

SHORT PASSES

● Martin Peters gained 67 full England caps; scoring 20 goals.

(ANDREW CHAMBERLAIN,
Thetford)

● You share your birthday of 12th May with former England star Alan Ball.

(SUZANNE BADEL, Derby)

● Comedian Charlie Williams's professional club was Doncaster Rovers.

(PAUL SINGLETON, St. Helens)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!,
IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St. London, SE1 9LS.

£3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Gary Meadows of Hollingbury, Brighton in Sussex, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

JEALOUS SCOTS

I WAS enraged at Ally MacLeod's after-match comments after England had beaten Scotland 1-0. They were typical of Scottish jealousy at the slightest bit of England success.

He classed England's performance as "terrible" and the goal was scored "by the worst player on the park" — which showed the Scots' predictable unsportsmanlike attitude towards England.

You didn't hear a criticising comment from previous England managers, even when Scotland suffered five-goal defeats.

It may not have been a vintage performance by England, but it was still a very good one in front of a fanatical Hampden crowd.

Perhaps the Scots do not want to face the fact that their reign of being Britain's top side is over.

● When England play Scotland, the only important thing is the result. Scottish fans didn't mind that they won thanks to a Ray Clemence error two years ago. Ally MacLeod showed himself to be a poor loser — and if England were that bad, surely it's an indictment of his own team that they couldn't win! Still, you'll never convince the Scots that they weren't robbed. For two years Scots have criticised England mercilessly. Now, the boot is on the other foot. Please read on...

Don't Forget Wales

ALL I've heard is that England are British Champions. Fair enough, but it mustn't be forgotten that Wales finished above Scotland, too. As a Welshman, that penalty at Anfield which cost us a place in the Finals still rankles, so stop complaining you Scots that Alan Rough was fouled at Hampden against England. He wasn't — but even if he was, you can't have every decision going in your favour.

NEIL JACKSON,
CARDIFF.

As far as I'm concerned, it should be Ally's Smarmy! How can a manager be so rude to fellow professionals? He should be charged with bringing the game into disrepute. His comments were so ridiculously biased. Three home games at fearsome (?) Hampden

and all they could manage were two draws and a defeat! Brilliant! As far as supporting Scotland in Argentina — not until they learn humility.

COLIN LANDSDOWN,
MAIDENHEAD.

England's narrow victory at Hampden was, to say the least, undeserved. Scotland at least had the satisfaction of playing world-class football. No doubt it will be regarded as sour grapes by the English from a Scot whose pride has been hurt, but I'm still proud of the Scottish team.

WILLIAM FYFE,
DORNOCH.

It is ridiculous to let the countries share the British Championship. It should be decided on goal-difference to virtually ensure an outright winner. This would make the competition even more competitive.

JULIAN TAYLOR,
KENNETT.

● Our Scottish mailbag was surprisingly small after the British Championship. True, the competition was less important than the World Cup, but let's give credit to England who have come on in leaps and bounds under Ron Greenwood. Their 4-1 win over Hungary was a fitting climax to a satisfying season.

"New" Giles

I WAS delighted to see the inclusion of Southampton's brilliant young schemer Steve Williams in the England Under-21 side.

He reminds me in many ways of Johnny Giles with his passing and general awareness of what's going on.

I'm looking forward to the day when Steve is included in the full England team playing alongside that other great prospect Ray Wilkins. I'm sure that day isn't far off.

STEPHEN HOPKINS,
STOKE-ON-TRENT.

● The way England's results have been going, Steve may have to wait a while, but if he progresses as he has been Ron Greenwood could promote him to the B team next season.

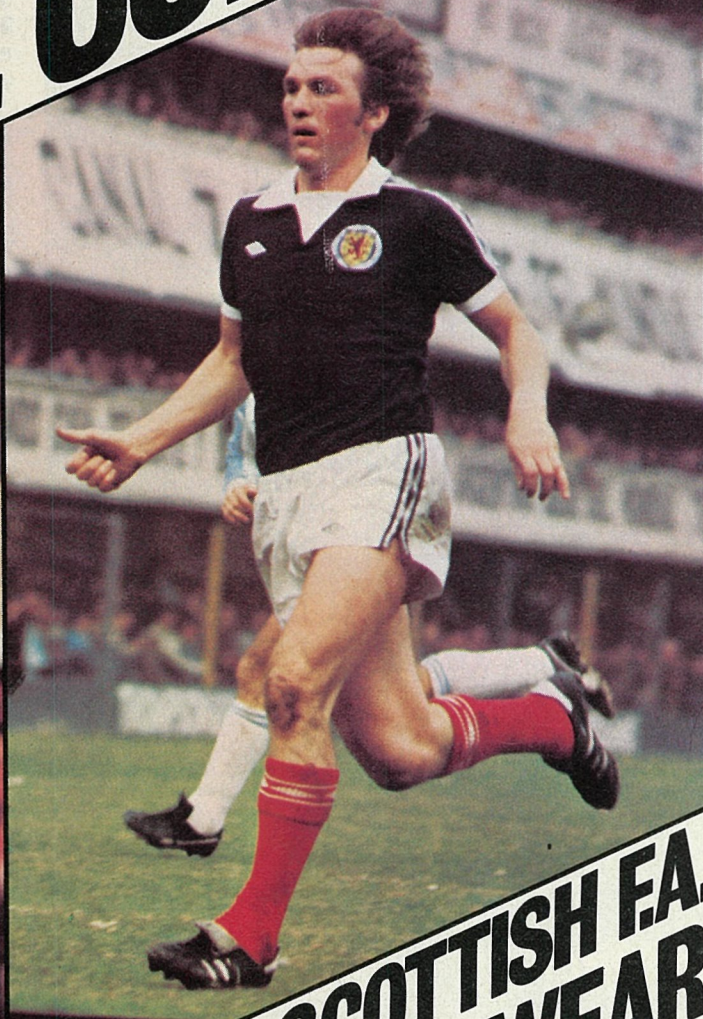
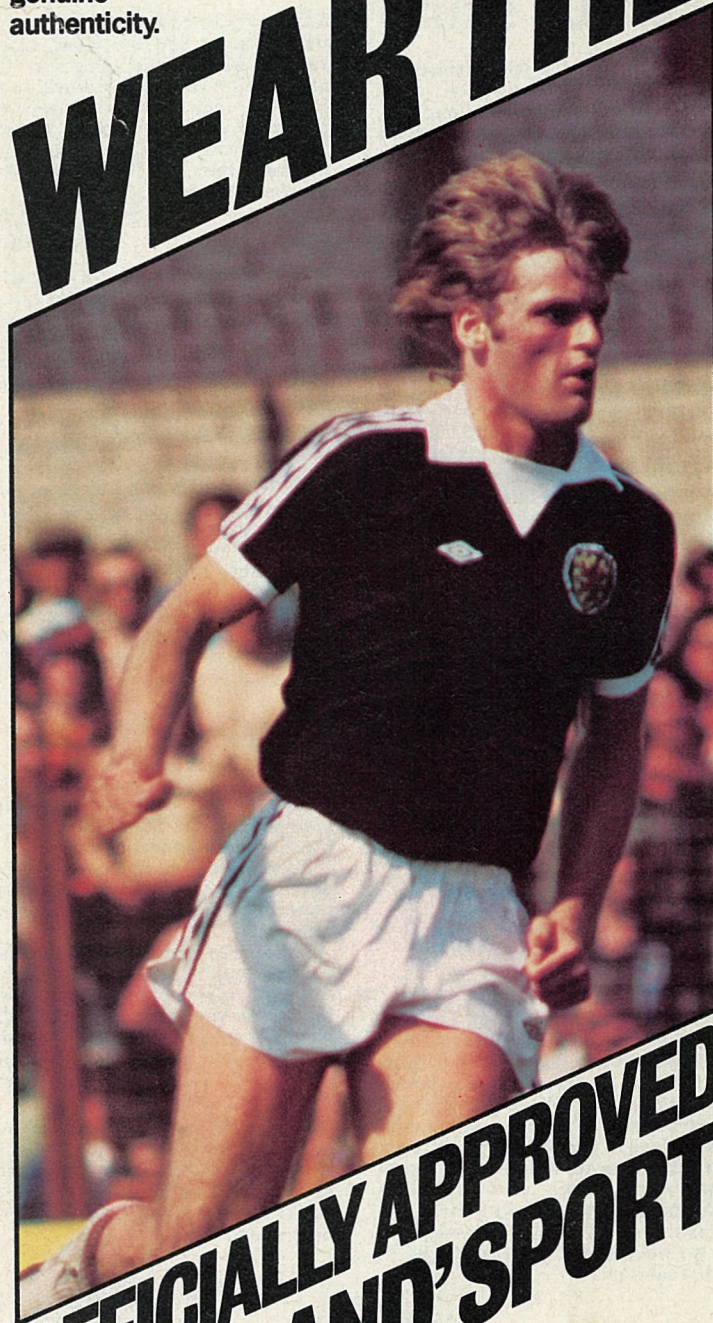
Pen-Pal

I'M a 16-year-old boy who lives in America and I'd like to have pen-pals who support Aston Villa and Exeter City.

JIM DOSSISE,
2127 NAVY ST.,
SANTA MONICA,
CALIF. 90405,
U.S.A.

Support Britain's 1978 World Cup representatives in true blue fashion. Choose sports and leisure wear from the 'Scotland' range by Umbro International. ☐ Officially approved by the Scottish Football Association and complete with authentic embroidered Scottish F.A. badges, there are both long and short sleeved jerseys in distinctive Navy and White 'Home' strip style, a striking Navy-striped 'Away' style jersey and a goalkeeper's style jersey in vivid Amber with Navy stripes. ☐ In design, they're just like the kit the players themselves wear. For long lasting value, they're made in easy-to-care-for 100% nylon. Team them with Umbro's matching 'Scotland' shorts and hose and you'll really be kitted out like one of your heroes. ☐ Besides playing kit, the Umbro 'Scotland' range includes a super-smart zip-up jacket too, plus a 'Scotland' style track suit, a knitted V-necked casual sweater and 'Scotland' sports bags—all featuring the official Scottish F.A. badge. ☐ Umbro 'Scotland' sports and leisure wear is obtainable from leading sports outfitters. There's no mistaking it—every item carries the Umbro diamond trade mark. It's your guarantee of quality and genuine authenticity.

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JOHAN BOWS OUT



BARCELONA captain Johan Cruyff shakes hands with Valencia's Mario Kempes before Johan's last first-class match for the Spanish club. It seems almost unthinkable this marvellous player is hanging up his boots . . . at least in competitive soccer . . . when he obviously has so much more to give. The match, in the Nou Camp Stadium, was disappointing, with two players being sent-off. Not the sort of fitting farewell Cruyff should have had. Perhaps Johan will change his mind and stay in football. There are whispers the Cosmos would like him, but the soccer grapevine also says Cruyff will agree only on a short-term basis, probably for friendlies. One thing is certain: he doesn't need the money. Overleaf, we have given details of the player's earnings with Barcelona — about £1.5 million. You can probably double this figure when you include his outside interests, and when you consider Barcelona have paid all his taxes, then you'll realise Cruyff is one of the richest sportsmen in the world. After his farewell performance Cruyff was interviewed by the Press. Typically, he gave little away. If we don't see Johan Cruyff again, let's just be thankful for the pleasures he gave us during his wonderful career.



JOHAN CRUYFF'S RECORD

facts and figures of the career of one of the greatest footballers the world has ever seen.

A happy Johan after Ajax had beaten Panathinaikos in the 1970-71 European Cup Final at Wembley.



"I'VE MADE up my mind and that's it." Johan Cruyff is adamant his career as a full-time professional is over.

The Dutch ace bowed out of competitive football in Barcelona's final League game of the season against star-studded Valencia, with second place in the League at stake.

A capacity crowd of 90,000 turned up expecting something special, but the occasion was amazingly low-key, with most of the attention focused on the debut of the club's new president who the fans had elected on the previous day.

The match, too, was a surprisingly ill-tempered anti-climax. When De La Cruz (Barcelona) and Saura (Valencia) were sent-off in the 27th minute, Johan promptly dropped back to the role of mid-field-general, waving his colleagues into position like chessmen, shouting at them to use the width of the park, finding his front-runners with superb passes, and producing a handful of electrifying solo runs that had the crowd on their feet, including one that set up the winning goal for black striker Bio.

At the final whistle, Johan momentarily detached himself from an avalanche of reporters for a final wave to the stands, where the fans responded with flags and a chant of "Jo-han, Jo-han." One group of supporters had even come armed with a black flag as a sign of mourning!

Two hundred Pressmen were already milling around when Johan made his way down to the

Cruyff (light shirt) in action for Ajax in 1965.



dressing-room, and an hour passed before he made a discreet escape arm-in-arm with his wife Danny through the tunnels of the stadium, avoiding the 1,000 fans who were waiting at the main gate.

Johan was pale and tight-lipped when he said goodbye to SHOOT at the door of his Citroen. He still had a tour of America and a testimonial against Ajax to look forward to, but Johan knows his future world of exhibition football with the Cosmos wouldn't provide the same challenges, heartaches and satisfactions as the competitive game.

The next day, Johan had a farewell lunch for the rest of the squad at the Nou Camp Stadium.

They put tables up in the stand and had a typical Catalan lunch of barbecued sausages, ribs and beef with cutlets and salad — all cooked on charcoal.

The new president of the club, Josep Lluís Nunez, offered Johan a basic fee of £680,000 to stay for another season. Cruyff refused.

Rumours say he has signed a contract with the Cosmos for some games, but he is officially a Barcelona player until June 30th.

After that . . . who knows? But it seems as if the first-class career of one of the world's truly great players has come to an end.



King Juan Carlos hands over the Spanish Cup to the Dutch superstar after Barcelona had beaten Las Palmas 3-1.

AJAX

1965/66 . . .	16 goals in his first full season; Ajax Champions
1966/67 . . .	33 goals; Ajax win the League and Cup
1967/68 . . .	25 goals; Ajax Champions; Cup Finalists
1968/69 . . .	24 goals; Ajax second in League; European Cup Finalists
1969/70 . . .	23 goals; Ajax win the League and Cup
1970/71 . . .	21 goals; Ajax second in League; Cup winners; European Cup winners
1971/72 . . .	25 goals; Ajax Champions, Cup winners and European Cup winners; World Club Champions
1972/73 . . .	16 goals; Ajax Champions; European Cup winners

BARCELONA

1973/74 . . .	16 goals in 26 games; Barca Champions; Cup Finalists (Cruyff not eligible)
1974/75 . . .	7 goals in 30 games; Barca third; European Cup Semi-Finals
1975/76 . . .	6 goals in 26 games; Barca runners-up; U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals
1976/77 . . .	13 goals in 29 games; Barca runners-up; U.E.F.A. Cup Third Round
1977/78 . . .	5 goals in 25 games; Barca runners-up; Cup winners; U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals

BARCELONA EARNINGS

Signing-on	
fee	£750,000
1973/74 . . .	£200,000
1974/75 . . .	£200,000
1975/76 . . .	£200,000
1976/77 . . .	£450,000
1977/78 . . .	£600,000

COST TO BARCA PER OFFICIAL GAME: £13,480.

- ★ During his career, Cruyff has scored 230 League goals
- ★ He has won seven Championship medals
- ★ Cruyff won five domestic Cup winners' medals
- ★ He won three European Cup winners' medals
- ★ European Footballer of the Year in 1971, 1973 and 1974

FOR John Neal his first taste of Division One football was a disappointment. Appointed last May to succeed Jackie Charlton, he left behind a Wrexham team on the threshold of success for a challenging new role as manager of Middlesbrough.

On his own admission results during the 1977-78 season at Ayresome Park were worse than he had expected.

Recalling the events of the past 12 months Neal says: "I felt we had established a tremendous set-up at Wrexham and that the signing of Les Cartwright completed a very good team. In fact, I felt confident they would go up last season."

At Wrexham, Neal pursued a policy of gradually introducing younger players into the team and they quickly showed their worth. "This is what I am doing now at Ayresome Park," he explains. "Whenever anybody talks about Boro, they think of experienced players, men like John Craggs, Willie Maddren and Stuart Boam.

"Men like Stuart and the rest are all great players. But now I have started to inject a youthful look into the team.

"Everybody knows about Stan Cummins, but we have others who have done equally well. Alan Ramage, Ian Bailey, Tony McAndrew and Craig Johnston have all shown what they are capable of, and everybody forgets David Armstrong is still only 23.

"Already these youngsters are

fine footballers and the more experience they get, the better they will become. That is why I believe Middlesbrough will soon be ready to fulfil the potential they showed in 1974."

In that year, they won the Second Division by 15 points and knowledgeable observers tipped them as the team of the immediate future. Since then, however, their results have not lived up to those generous expectations.

Their best League position has been seventh, and their chance of F.A. Cup glory was ended last season in the Quarter-Finals by lowly Orient.

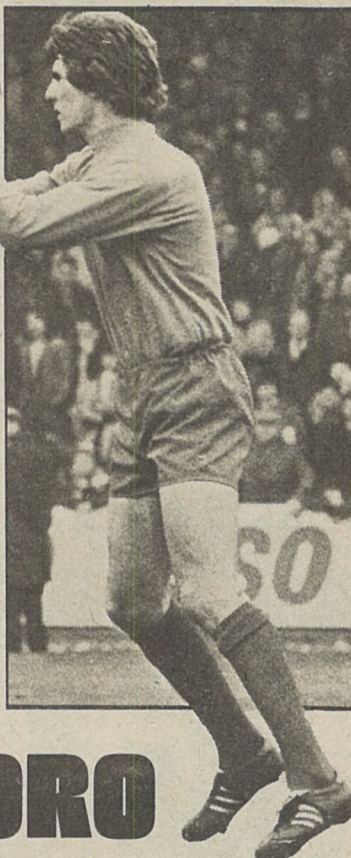
Yet one of the greatest sources of worry to Neal last season was the evaluation of Stan Cummins by former Middlesbrough boss Jack Charlton.

On his appointment at Sheffield Wednesday, Charlton declared young Cummins would become the first British player to fetch one million pounds in the transfer market.

"That was a ridiculous thing to say," insists Neal. "Fancy lumbering a 19-year-old with such a tag. When Jack left the club the boy had played only a handful of first team games. How could anybody say that of someone with so little experience?

"Wherever he plays now, people come along to watch him. If he has a bad game, then everybody wants to know what all the fuss is about. He has to try to live up to that reputation every game and when he can't, he gets upset. He had an

Manager John Neal (below) recently paid £110,000 for Jim Stewart (right). Orient (bottom of page, light strip) knocked Boro out of the F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals.



WHY BORO BOSS JOHN NEAL IS WORRIED



exhausting season and was ready for a break.

"He will make a very good player as long as people leave him alone to develop, but he is only one of five young lads who played regularly last season and they have all done well."

Next season Middlesbrough will be the North-East's only representatives in the First Division, following the relegation of Sunderland and Newcastle in the past two seasons.

"I was very disappointed and sorry to see two such great football teams going down to the Second, but for the first time in the club's history we shall be carrying the name of North Eastern soccer in the First Division on our own," says Neal.

"I feel very proud and privileged to do so. The great footballing traditions and glories of the area will spur us to greater efforts and attract bigger gates."

At the moment Neal feels Middlesbrough are still short of a couple of players, and he would like to go into the transfer market to obtain them.

He has already paid £110,000 for Scotland's World Cup squad 'keeper Jim Stewart from Kilmarnock.

"My other big money buy, Billy Ashcroft, has not done as well as I expected since following me from

Wrexham for around £100,000, but then he, like myself, must find it difficult to step straight from Division Three into the top League in Britain.

"Division One is highly competitive and the standard of football is always high. Last season we were both learning and gaining experience. For the 1978-79 campaign we will be more aware of life in Division One and I'm sure we will both do better."

If Billy Ashcroft and everybody else at Ayresome Park succeed in bringing the trophies back to the North-East, then they, too, will echo John Neal's sentiments when he says: "I have no regrets in leaving Wrexham to join Middlesbrough. I am certain my experiences will make me a better manager next season. You learn from set-backs and I've had a number of those.

"I am equally sure the players have benefited enormously as well from their experiences last season.

"That Quarter-Final defeat will also make them even more determined to succeed and I feel confident the lads will bring a major trophy to Ayresome Park in the not too distant future.

"I found it wonderful to take a team to top grounds like Liverpool's Anfield and Manchester United's Old Trafford. My next ambition is to take a Boro team that can compete with and beat the best."

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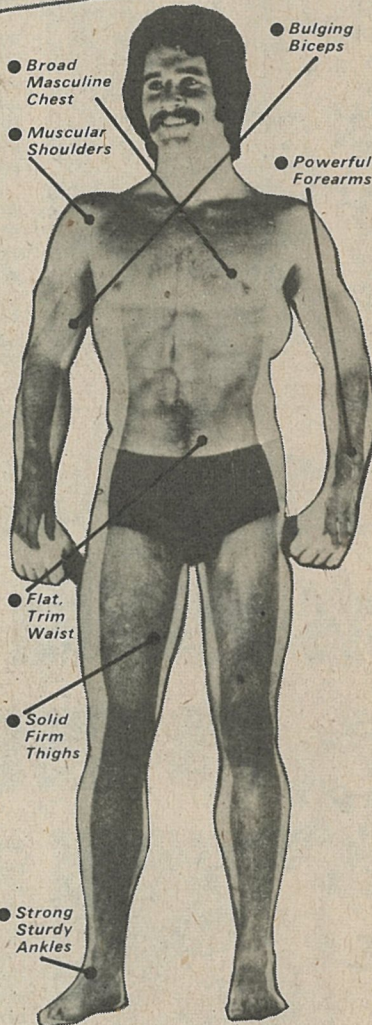
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ENGLAND'S YOUNG STARS 'BEATEN' BY ANTS...

that was just one of the problems the youth squad faced during the recent Little World Cup tournament

THOSE who believe our professional footballers are mollycoddled when they travel abroad should have been with the England Youth team in Poland for the recent Little World Cup competition.

After seeing the conditions the English lads had to put up with the knockers would have had a rapid change of mind.

England — skippered by Fulham's Tony Gale — failed to survive their group matches. But in view of all the problems they faced they still did a great job for their country.

The aggravation started when they arrived at their hotel in Chorzow late at night after a tiring 13-hour journey from London.

They walked in to find utter chaos over booking arrangements. Yet only two weeks earlier the F.A. had forked out £1,000 to send manager Ken Burton and team doctor Professor O'Gorman to Poland to check all the details.

England administration officer John Baylis worked through to the early hours of the morning in a bid to sort out the confusion. And at the end of it all the three committee men accompanying the party found themselves without rooms and they had to spend the night at a vastly inferior hotel elsewhere.

One of them, Charles Thomas from Durham, threatened to catch the next plane home if something was not done quickly.

Eventually English reporters came to the rescue, helping to find the three F.A. Councillors rooms in the hotel being used by the Press.

Meanwhile, back at the team hotel everything was far from well. Several people went the entire week without managing to get a hot bath and two players — Blackpool's Iain Hesford and Terry Fenwick, from Crystal Palace — twice had to abandon their room at midnight claiming it was overrun with ants.

Complaint

"It's the first time I've been beaten by something on more than two legs," joked one of the lads.

England were not the only team with cause for complaint. For Turkey arrived at Katowice Airport at two o'clock in the morning — and found no one there to meet them. They had to wait until half-past seven before the coach turned up to take them to their hotel.

And the incidents were by no means confined to England's group. For Belgium, the holders, were forced to quit the competition and fly home after one match when half their 16-man squad went down with food poisoning.

Then Portugal and Italy — who figured in a stormy match that saw four players booked and one sent-off — carried on the argument afterwards with a midnight brawl in the street outside their hotel.

Bad luck even followed the England party on the journey home as well. Because they were unable to get confirmation that a charter plane was available to take them from Katowice to Warsaw



Clive Allen (above, left) scored England's winner against Spain. Blackpool's Iain Hesford (above, right) was the only member who did not play in the tournament. Tony Gale (right) of Fulham was skipper.

they decided to make the journey by coach.

With 45 minutes of the four-hour journey remaining a tyre punctured and the entire party had to stand by the roadside in bitterly cold weather while the wheel was changed.

It seemed all they had been forced to contend with had got on top of England when they made a faltering start in their bid to win the trophy for the fifth time in eight years.

They were held to a 1-1 draw by Turkey and have to thank Gale, who scored two minutes before the end, for the point.

Then came a superb performance to beat Spain 1-0 — with Clive Allen, of Q.P.R., grabbing the vital goal.

He is the son of Les Allen, who played in Tottenham's double-winning side of 1961 and also had a spell with Chelsea.

England remained calm in the face of some tremendous provocation from Spaniards, who hacked, punched and spat at them.

By far the worst offence was a dreadful foul on Ipswich's Bryan Klug. It needed six stitches to a deep cut in the shin and put Klug out of action for the rest of the tournament.

England had done so well against Spain they were firm favourites to overcome host nation Poland in their final group match.

And had Allen and Fenwick made the most of a couple of glorious early chances they would have been in a strong position. But they missed them both and Poland celebrated by romping to a 2-0 win and going through to the Semi-Finals as group winners.

Scotland, meanwhile, had managed to reach the last four by coming out on top of their group. An incredible achievement from a team so badly hit by withdrawals they had to advertise for players to make the trip.

But the Scots' interest ended there. In the Semi-Final they drew 2-2 with Yugoslavia — and went out on penalties.

The powerful Russians toppled Poland 2-0 in the other Semi-Final. Then they beat Yugoslavia 3-0 to take the trophy.

England squad: Chris Woods (Forest), Iain Hesford (Blackpool); Ray Ranson (Man City), Martyn Rogers (Man Utd), Danis Salman (Brentford), Billy Gilbert (Palace), Tony Gale (Fulham), Vince Hilaire (Palace), Andy Ritchie (Man Utd), Terry Fenwick (Palace), Jason Seacole (Oxford), Clive Allen (QPR), Brian Klug (Ipswich), Steve Burke (Forest), Noel Parkinson (Ipswich), Pat Heard (Everton).

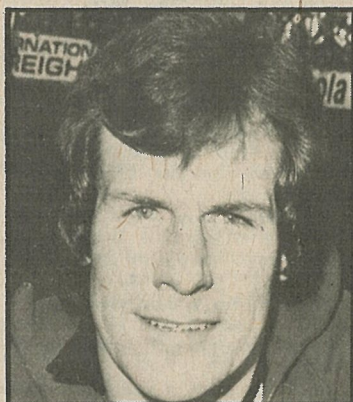
Hesford, understudy to 'keeper Woods, was the only member of the squad who did not get a game.

Four players look back on

THE GOOD

'A FIRST-CLASS F.A. CUP FINAL'

JOE ROYLE
(Bristol City)



ONE OF the good things of last season was the F.A. Cup Final between Ipswich Town and Arsenal — often a game of this sort is disappointing and the football very patchy, but this Final was first-class.

The only ingredient missing, from the Ipswich point of view, was goals, with Town having only one to show for their superiority. I thought the outstanding Ipswich players were Kevin Beattie and



Frank Stapleton goes close for Arsenal against Ipswich Town in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley.

Allan Hunter at the back, and Paul Mariner had a great game at centre-forward, linking up well with Clive Woods.

While Arsenal struggled to get going, it was Ipswich who showed us some really entertaining football — and it reminded me of a feeling I had after Town played us in a League match at Ipswich before the Final. At the time, I told myself: "Ipswich are playing badly enough to win the Cup."

But that's what football is all about, the form on the day at

Wembley — and I don't think even Arsenal supporters would quibble about their team's defeat. In fact, with a bit of luck, Paul Mariner would have had a couple of goals to show for his hard work.

So looking back, it's possible to say the 1978 Cup Final was a real highlight, and compensation to Ipswich for some of the disappointments they have had in recent years.

Taking it all round, last season was a good one for the promise it held out for the future of the game in this country. I've never been one of those people who felt England's football was at a low ebb, but our performances against Italy and

Brazil at Wembley were two of the happy events of last term.

What was also good was the support the Press and the media in general gave England, after a period in which they continually knocked our international side. In fact, we are inclined to be a nation of knockers, and although we failed to qualify for the World Cup, we proved how absurd it is that we are not in Argentina.

At club level, Liverpool proved our superiority over the Continentals at Wembley in the European Cup Final, with Bruges emerging as one of the worst teams from abroad I've seen. All they wanted to do was to stop Liverpool scoring, which they couldn't, and for me it was Terry McDermott who impressed for the winners.

Bad things about last season? Well, they must be the standard of refereeing and the behaviour of the fans.

Referees were too much inclined to overlook the really bad foul, and punish the more trivial — they weren't consistent and there were signs the tackle from behind was again becoming a problem.

As to the fans, those who make all the trouble are not football supporters — they are part of the social problem that exists today.

Incidents of the sort which happened at Millwall and with Manchester United were two of the black spots of 1977-78, something which the real fan has no wish to be connected with.

'REFS SHOULD CARRY ON LONGER'

GEOFF NULTY
(Newcastle United)



Former
Football
League
referee Jack
Taylor.

ONE OF the highlights of last season for me was the performance of David Geddis of Ipswich in the F.A. Cup Final with Arsenal at Wembley. David did so much to undermine Arsenal with his intelligent running, playing wide on the right as he did — but, and this was also very important, he prevented Sammy Nelson from making any overlapping runs down the wing from his position at full-back.

So apart from turning in an impressive attacking display for Ipswich, Geddis at the same time blunted Arsenal's capacity for going forward, and this meant Town were able to keep on top and dominate the play for most of the time.

And with Arsenal possessing the better players on the ball, it was vital for Ipswich to redress the balance in other ways, and their manager, Bobby Robson, gave his men specific tasks to do. And in the case of David Geddis, one of the features of his play was his off-the-ball running — this, along with his work in possession, made him the Ipswich key-man in my estimation. But it was also a real, 100 per cent team effort from Ipswich which made everything about the Final first class.

For Arsenal, I felt genuine regret for Malcolm Macdonald that he

was once again on the losing side at Wembley, following previous unsuccessful appearances there for Newcastle in F.A. and also League Cup Finals. But the magnificent defensive work of Allan Hunter and Kevin Beattie for Ipswich, and Arsenal's inability to put their game together, made it a losing 90 minutes for the Londoners.

Liverpool's European Cup win over Bruges was one of the good things last season, not just because of the fact it was the second year in succession they had lifted the trophy, but because it proved an English team can come out on top over the Continentals.

In the game itself, Liverpool didn't turn in one of their best performances, yet at the same time Bruges never looked like going in front — they seemed very conscious of the fact they were rated the underdogs, and the only thing I was worried about was them making a sudden breakaway and scoring when the teams were level at 0-0.

At a national level, England's Wembley matches with Italy, Brazil and Hungary indicated we still have the players to challenge the best — perhaps Don Revie, in his spell as manager, tried out too many players, but at the moment



England seem headed in the right direction.

Bad thing about last season consisted of knowing I wouldn't be playing in any matches that would be controlled by referees of the calibre of Gordon Hill and Jack Taylor, who of course are both in retirement. But I would like to see 47-year-old referees given a medical, and if fit, allowed to carry on in the game if they choose.

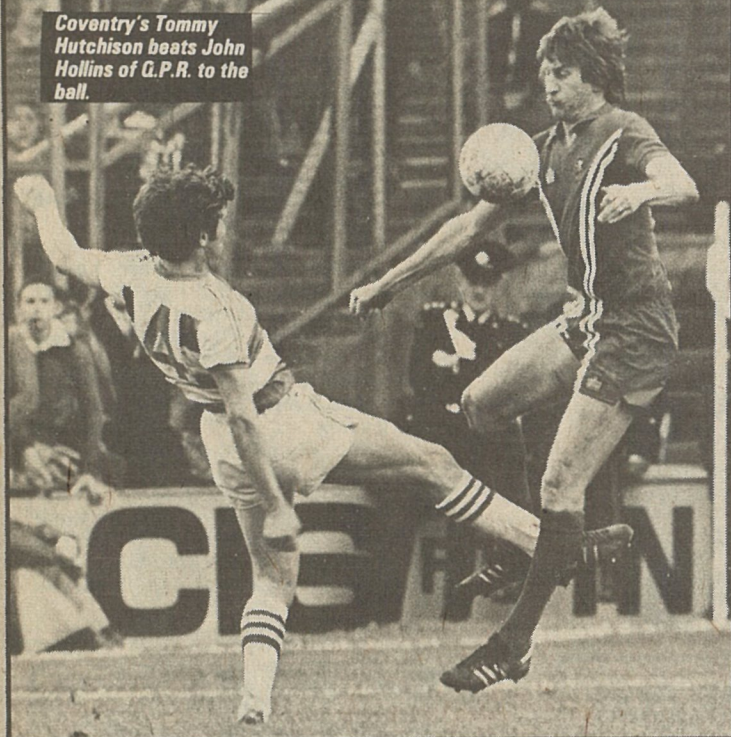
Another bad thing in 1977-78 was the continued ill-behaviour of some of the fans. Players don't want to be associated with people of the kind who made trouble at Millwall and Manchester United. It is a social disease, and there seems to be no cure for it.

AND BAD OF 1977-78

'WINGERS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS'

CLIVE WOODS
(Ipswich Town)

Coventry's Tommy Hutchison beats John Hollins of G.P.R. to the ball.



THE prominent part wingers played in the game last season was a good feature of 1977-78, especially when I recall only a year earlier I had been concerned about the direction in which football seemed to be heading. At that time, there was a lot of negative play, but last term wingers did their share to make soccer more attractive.

John Robertson of Nottingham Forest, Peter Barnes of Manchester City, Tommy Hutchison of Coventry, Steve Coppell of Manchester United and Gordon Hill, now with Derby County, were among wingers who were key-players in their teams. Not only did they give defenders a headache — along with getting positive results on the field, they also provided excitement of the sort fans all over the country like to see.

The crowning of Nottingham Forest as First Division Champions was a good thing about last season — to come straight out of the

Second Division and win the title was a terrific feat. And Forest not only finished on top — they impressed me by the way they did it.

And Nottingham Forest's success was good for football, proving the underdogs have a chance against the fancied glamour clubs like Liverpool, Everton, Manchester City and Arsenal.

A bad thing about last season was the reluctance of linesmen to take it on themselves to make responsible decisions. I consider they were too ready to flag for unimportant infringements, but slow to help referees when bigger fouls were committed. I reckon referees and linesmen should act as a team, much more than they appeared to do last term. And for example, there were occasions when penalties should have been awarded but weren't — the referee was not always in a position to see an offence, and linesmen who were, would not accept the responsibility of letting him know.

Following the pattern of previous years, the behaviour of some fans last season was bad for the game. For those clubs who are anxious to make a Saturday outing to a match a family affair, the trouble at Millwall and in Manchester United away games must have been discouraging, at the least. Seating everybody might help to curb the violence, but the expense incurred in doing this could deter clubs.

'FOREST WERE WORTHY CHAMPIONS'

MARTIN PETERS
(Norwich City)

AN outstanding event of last season was the performance of Nottingham Forest in winning the First Division Championship. Just over a year ago they had been promoted, but only by a narrow margin — Forest were five points behind top-of-the-table Wolves, and only a point ahead of Bolton, who finished fourth. So at the beginning of last term there was nothing to suggest Forest would be First Division pacesetters.

But their attractive, attacking style of play, added to their consistency, took Nottingham Forest to the top. And there was no disputing the fact they were worthy Champions — they won the title on merit. When their manager, Brian Clough, bought new players, they fitted in neatly to the Forest pattern. And finally, their success was not a one-off thing — it was gained over 42 matches.

Another good thing about last season was the encouraging form shown by British players at club and international level. In the European Cup, Liverpool brought prestige to this country by their feat in winning the trophy for the second year in succession. Here again, there was nothing lucky in their performance, and no way Bruges could claim to be robbed or the victims of bad decisions.

Then there has been the re-emergence of England under Ron Greenwood following their previous two patchy seasons. The England manager has introduced and encouraged ball-players in the side, such as Steve Coppell, Peter Barnes, Trevor Brooking and Ray Wilkins — and now the team as a whole shows future promise.

A bad thing about last season was England not qualifying for the World Cup, especially after some of the football they served up against Italy, Brazil and Hungary at Wembley. The side had shown it had the answer to its previous shortcomings, and given signs that England could hold its own against strong opposition.

From a personal point of view, I felt a bad thing about last season was the failure of Norwich City to win more than two games after Christmas. Before then, we had climbed to sixth or seventh place in the League, with the promise we might get into Europe. But we fell away, hit a bad patch, and conceded some silly goals. What made it doubly disappointing was the fact last August the feeling was if we held a mid-position in the League we would be satisfied. Then to eventually finish below this was something of a let-down.



Nottingham Forest captain John McGovern shows off the Football League Championship trophy.





'WHERE I STARTED IN SOCCER'

My earliest memory of soccer is going along to the local school with my brothers . . . and hoping to get a game in goal! I was invariably the youngest boy around as my brothers and their friends used to go along to a nearby school pitch and pick-up sides. Not only was I the youngest, I was also the smallest and therefore I was usually last choice when it came to picking teams. More often than not I'd end up in goal. I didn't mind — at least I was playing.

I played soccer whenever I could as a youngster. Every spare minute I had was spent kicking a ball; if a ball wasn't handy, then something else, like a can, would do.

At school, in every break, whatever the weather, I used to be either playing or simply practising by myself. To do something else never entered my head!

We were fortunate in Drumchapel, where I lived, because there was — and still is — a huge field just over the road. Returning from school, I was there until it was too

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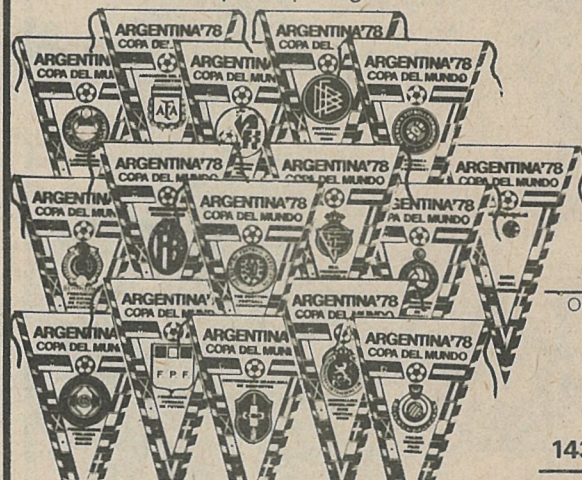
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dark to see the ball.

Once I was a little older, I became a forward and since then that's always been my position. I've always had a special inclination to score goals and seeing the ball hit the back of the net (or, as it might have been, the wall!) was my idea of soccer.

As far as I can remember, the first honour I ever won was the Glasgow Championship at my primary school. I can certainly recall my goal, because it was the only one of the game.

The ball came to me about four yards out from goal, but at that age four yards seemed like 40! Not only that, but the ball fell to my "wrong" right foot. In fact, I kicked the ground as I made connection with the ball, yet somehow I still managed to score the winning goal.

I have never wanted to be anything other than a professional footballer. My brothers (they still say they're better than me!) helped me a great deal. As they were older than me, I used to play with boys of a slightly higher standard than my own age and this must have benefited my progress.

The thought of having a nine-to-five job never appealed to me. I flirted with the idea of becoming a computer programmer just in case I didn't make the grade (which I did, of course, but somewhat later than I hoped) . . . but I soon came to my senses again!

Nearly all my presents were connected with football — new boots, ball or strip.

I didn't have much interest in other sports. Until I was 16, I was very small and quite weak . . . certainly not fast enough to make any impression in sprinting.

When I moved on to my secondary school, I used to play soccer instead of swotting, yet despite a lack of homework and revision I managed to pass eight O levels.

I stayed on for a further six

months to take four A levels, but by this time I was 17 and had already signed for Dundee United. My heart wasn't really in my exams and not surprisingly I failed all four.

My best goal-tally in one game is, I think, 13. I don't remember who I was playing against, but my team won 31-0!

I played for my district team and Glasgow Schoolboys and when I wasn't playing — which wasn't very often — I went along to Ibrox Park to cheer Rangers. Most of the time I was playing, though, on Saturdays I played in the morning and afternoon.

If I was allowed to stay up late, I watched the football on the television. My idol in those days was Denis Law and I'm sure I used to

grip the sleeves of my shirt as Denis did!

Some people feel it's wrong for youngsters to play competitive soccer, but I don't go along with them. To simply play football for fun, with nothing at all to aim for, would surely make the sport rather empty.

I wouldn't have been happy playing only friendlies. A trophy at the end of the season adds the sparkle and edge that all soccer needs.

Mind you, the attitude of today's teenagers towards football doesn't seem quite as enthusiastic as when I was younger.

I suppose soccer was just about the only sport to play. Now, there are many other diversions and I'd prefer every kid who has a skateboard to swap it for a football!

ANDY GRAY writes for you

FAR LEFT . . . "Playing with some young soccer enthusiasts back home in Drumchapel. It was here that I used to play as a youngster."

RIGHT . . . "With my mother and brothers, who used to give me every help when I was a boy."

BELOW . . . "On the street where I lived!"



You don't see the number of boys playing these days. There was always a street team where I lived, yet now the number of lads playing is much smaller.

I'd say would-be professionals have more going for them now. They can train with clubs from the age of 12 or so and by the time they come to sign apprentice forms, can have four or five years' experience of the club behind them.

I was 17 when I joined Dundee United and did not enjoy the sort of pre-professional coaching today's boys can have. Really, today's lads almost have four years start when they make football their career.

It's probably true to say there should be more facilities to play. More pitches for youngsters to develop their skills. Okay, but if the desire to play football is there, then a field, a street or anywhere where you can play will suffice. It did with me.

Now, as a professional, I'm aware of the responsibility I have towards the next generation of footballers. I try to conduct myself in the proper way, although it's almost impossible to be perfect.

I've seen myself on television swearing and I think: "I shouldn't have said that."

Yet if a goalkeeper makes a superb save from a "cert" goal, or you miss a sitter, it's hard not to curse your luck.

In fairness, Villa are a good side in this respect and our disciplinary record is better than most. Manager Ron Saunders clamps down heavily on anyone who, in his opinion, lets the team down.

If any player is booked for dissent, then he can expect further punishment from the boss.

However, there are cases when the club may feel a player has been harshly, or unjustly, treated and then the manager will take no action.

Professionals have been criticised in some circles because they "don't set the right example."

Sadly, there will always be a nastier side to soccer, yet I wouldn't necessarily say younger players copy these antics.

I think they realise that out there on the park it's not easy to keep a promise. I say to myself "keep out of trouble" and most of the time I do.

In the heat of the moment, though, you can't always control your feelings, no matter how hard you try!

When I go out to play, all I'm basically concerned about is for Aston Villa to win. I concentrate all my thoughts in that direction and hope I'll score in helping Villa to victory.

See you again in a fortnight,

Andy Gray



Newport County Player of the Year Howard Goddard (left) proudly sits on the shoulders of Ron Walker. Other players are (left to right) John Relish, Mark Williams, Brian Preece and Eddie Woods. Despite a disappointing overall season for Manchester United, Steve Coppell (right) had an outstanding one and was duly voted the club's Player of the Year.



SUPERSTARS



Sheffield Wednesday striker Tommy Tynan (above) whose goals helped to pull the club clear of relegation trouble got the vote from the Hillsborough supporters.

BELOW . . . Alan Ball's superb season with Southampton made him an easy choice for their award. RIGHT . . . Last term was a memorable one for Nottingham Forest, as they collected many trophies. Here, Brian Clough and Kenny Burns are seen with the Midland Player of the Year award.





OF THE SEASON

ABOVE, LEFT . . . Motherwell fans had no hesitation in selecting their star player. They plumped for Gregor Stevens (left). **ABOVE . . .** Derek Johnstone had a highly successful term as Rangers won the domestic treble North of the border. The 39-goal striker capped the season by being voted Scotland's Footballer of the Year.

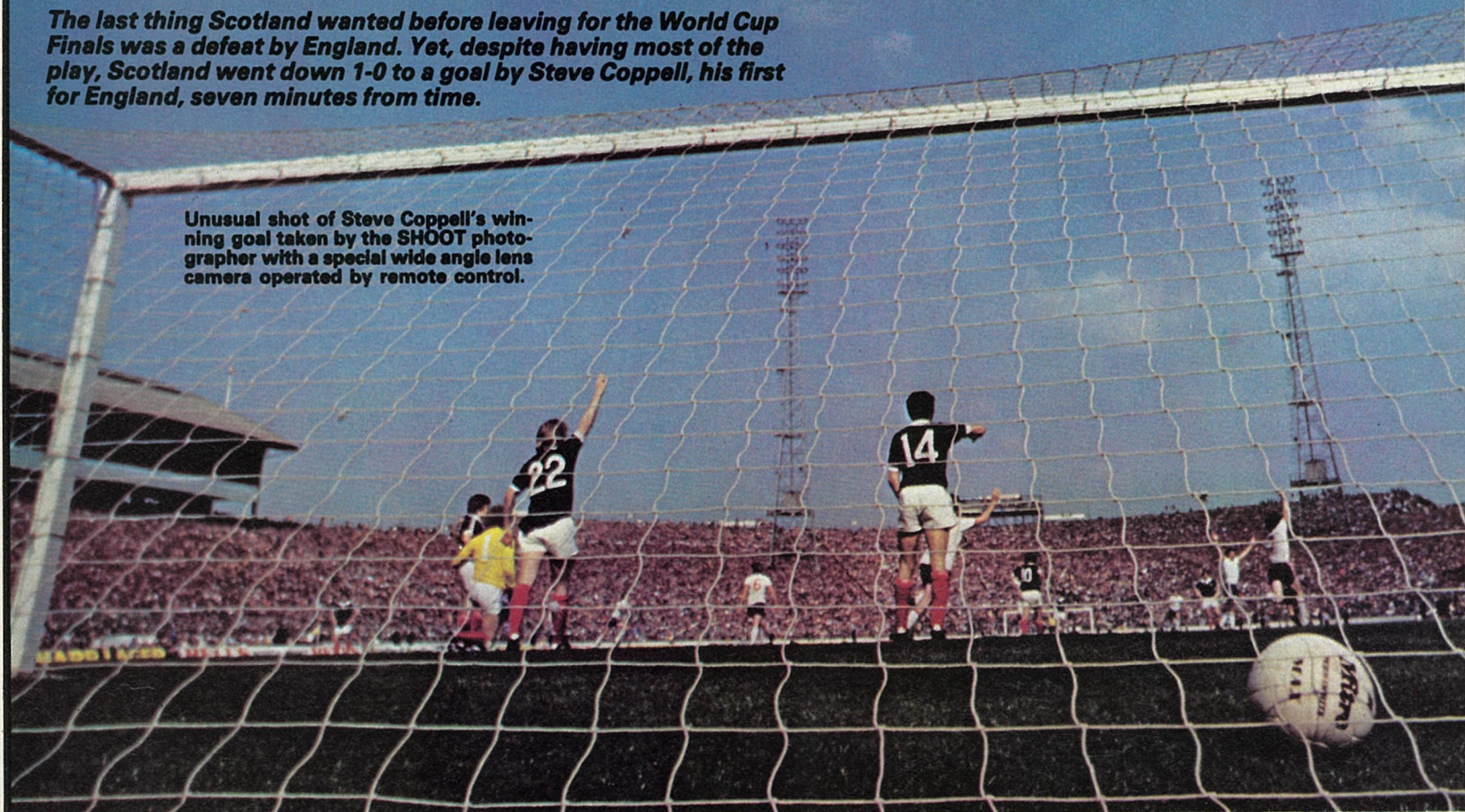


ABOVE . . . Although West Ham failed in their bid to stay in Division One, Trevor Brooking was once again in superb form and nearly performed a one man rescue act.

ENGLAND AVENGER

The last thing Scotland wanted before leaving for the World Cup Finals was a defeat by England. Yet, despite having most of the play, Scotland went down 1-0 to a goal by Steve Coppell, his first for England, seven minutes from time.

Unusual shot of Steve Coppell's winning goal taken by the SHOOT photographer with a special wide angle lens camera operated by remote control.



The England "wall" takes shape as from left to right, Peter Barnes, Tony Currie, Trevor Francis and Ray Wilkins work out a way to stop Scotland scoring.





England captain Emlyn Hughes comes away with the ball from Scotland's Don Masson and his Liverpool team-mate Kenny Dalglish.



Steve Coppell, fist raised in triumph, is congratulated from left to right by Phil Neal, Tony Currie and Trevor Brooking.



The two centre-forwards clash in the air and England's Paul Mariner leaps higher than Scotland's Joe Jordan.

RIVELINO'S RECORD

THE title of the most-capped player in the world is one that will never be decided properly because different countries have different methods of awarding caps. The Europeans only count full internationals against other national sides; others include friendlies against club sides and state selections.

Pele, some records show, won 110 caps, although 80 would be a truer figure by European standards. There has been a mystery about the current Brazil captain, Rivelino; he has worn the Brazil shirt around 120 times.

Here, though, are — as far as we can make out — the full internationals he's played in his long and distinguished career (up to the beginning of May):

No.	Date								
1	9. 6.68	Uruguay	2-0	37	2. 7.72	Czechoslovakia	0-0		
2	12. 6.68	Uruguay	4-0	38	5. 7.72	Yugoslavia	3-0		
3	20. 6.68	Poland	6-3	39	9. 7.72	Scotland	1-0		
4	23. 6.68	Czechoslovakia	2-3	40	3. 6.73	Portugal	1-0		
5	25. 6.68	Yugoslavia	2-0	41	6. 6.73	Algeria	2-0		
6	30. 6.68	Portugal	2-0	42	9. 6.73	Tunisia	4-1		
7	7. 7.68	Mexico	2-0	43	13. 6.73	Italy	0-2		
8	10. 7.68	Mexico	1-2	44	16. 6.73	Austria	1-1		
9	14. 7.68	Peru	4-3	45	21. 6.73	W. Germany	1-0		
10	17. 7.68	Peru	4-0	46	25. 6.73	USSR	1-0		
11	25. 7.68	Paraguay	4-0	47	30. 6.73	Sweden	0-1		
12	28. 7.68	Paraguay	0-1	48	3. 7.73	Scotland	1-0		
13	31.10.68	Mexico	1-2	49	30. 3.74	Eire	4-3		
14	3.11.68	Mexico	2-1	50	7. 4.74	Mexico	1-1		
15	14.12.68	W. Germany	2-2	51	10. 4.74	Czechoslovakia	1-0		
16	17.12.68	Yugoslavia	3-3	52	17. 4.74	Bulgaria	1-0		
17	21. 8.69	Colombia	6-2	53	21. 4.74	Rumania	2-0		
18	26. 3.70	Yugoslavia	2-1	54	28. 4.74	Haiti	4-0		
19	26. 4.70	Bulgaria	0-0	55	1. 5.74	Greece	0-0	72	31. 5.76
20	29. 4.70	Austria	1-0	56	5. 5.74	Austria	0-0	73	4. 6.76
21	17. 5.70	Mexico	5-2	57	12. 5.74	Eire	2-1	74	9. 6.76
22	3. 6.70	Czechoslovakia	4-1	58	13. 6.74	Paraguay	2-0	75	9. 3.77
23	7. 6.70	England	1-0	59	18. 6.74	Yugoslavia	0-0	76	13. 3.77
24	14. 6.70	Peru	4-2	60	22. 6.74	Scotland	0-0	77	20. 3.77
25	17. 6.70	Uruguay	3-1	61	26. 6.74	Zaire	3-0	78	8. 6.77
26	21. 6.70	Italy	4-1	62	30. 6.74	DDR	1-0	79	12. 6.77
27	30. 9.70	Mexico	2-1	63	3. 7.74	Argentina	2-1	80	19. 6.77
28	11. 7.71	Austria	1-1	64	6. 7.74	Holland	0-2	81	23. 6.77
29	14. 7.71	Czechoslovakia	1-0	65	25. 2.76	Poland	0-1	82	26. 6.77
30	18. 7.71	Yugoslavia	2-2	66	10. 3.76	Uruguay	2-1	83	30. 6.77
31	21. 7.71	Hungary	0-0	67	7. 4.76	Argentina	2-1	84	10. 7.77
32	24. 7.71	Paraguay	1-0	68	28. 4.76	Paraguay	1-1	85	14. 7.77
33	28. 7.71	Argentina	1-1	69	19. 5.76	Uruguay	2-1	86	1. 4.78
34	31. 7.71	Argentina	2-2	70	22. 5.76	Argentina	2-0	87	6. 4.78
35	26. 4.72	Paraguay	3-2	71	28. 5.76	England	1-0	88	19. 4.78
						USA	2-0	89	1. 5.78
									Peru



INTERESTING quotes from Johan Cruyff in Brazilian magazine Esportiva: "I support the International Campaign for Human Rights. I cannot play in a country in Argentina's situation. My absence from the World Cup represents a political protest. If I were in Argentina and President Videla wanted to shake hands with me I would turn my back on him."

BANNED BY LETTER

ESPANOL manager Heriberto Herrera is at the centre of a storm in Barcelona, after deciding to ban three of the team's top players — Caszely, Fernandez Amado and Jeremias — from training with the rest of the squad.

Herrera is renowned for his clashes with "personality" players, and what rankles with the banned trio is the manager didn't have the nerve to tell them face-to-face about the ban.

He asked the club secretary to send them a letter . . . !

VfB Stuttgart top the attendance record for the Bundesliga in their first season after promotion, and for next season the West Germans have already sold more than 6,500 season tickets, worth more than £500,000.

NEW WORLD RECORD

A WORLD record is being claimed in Belgium for 34-year-old former Hungarian international winger Antal Nagy who defected in Belgium after a friendly match in Liege for Honved. Nagy has played as a professional in no less than seven countries: Honved (Hungary), Standard Liege (Belgium), FC Twente (Holland), Marseille (France), Hercules (Spain), SV Wuppertal (West Germany) and Leixoes (Portugal).

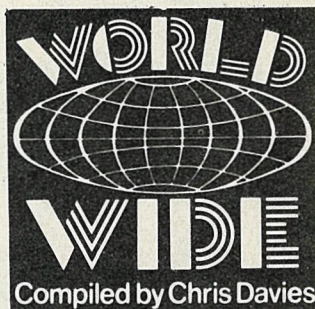
FORMER ITALY BOSS HURT

WHEN the Bologna-Florence express was de-railed recently, with 50 dead, the "train of death" was carrying the Verona party, en route via Pullman car to Rome for a League match with AS Roma. Fortunately, none of the players was seriously hurt, though the game was put off until the following Wednesday. 1974 World Cup manager Ferruccio Valcareggi, now manager of Verona, was the most seriously injured with two fractured ribs.

NOT JUST FOOTBALL

IN CASE you haven't realised, the World Cup is much more than just football — it's Big Business. And some teams have more problems off the field than they do on it.

Spain, for example, who were given complete sets of equipment by Adidas, which the F.A. ordered the players to wear. Unfortunately, several of the squad have contracts with other manufacturers, and after a long argument, manager Kubala had to say: "If you don't like the official equipment, you can pack your bags and go home."



KEVIN Keegan was included in the Team of the Year by West Germany's Kicker magazine. Looking back over the performances of the Bundesliga players — they give points every week like some of our Sunday papers do — this was Kicker's Top Team: Hellström (Kaiserslautern); Vogts (Bor. Mönchengladbach); Zewe (Fortuna Dusseldorf); Forster (VfB Stuttgart); Dietz (MSV Duisberg); Bonhof (Bor. Mönchengladbach); Grabowski (Ein. Frankfurt); Flohe (Cologne); Keegan (Hamburger SV); Abel (VfL Bochum) and Rummenigge (Bayern Munich).

DUTCH 'NOT GOOD ENOUGH'

SINCE Feyenoord signed a contract with Vaclav Jezek, the Czech who led his country to success in the 1976 European Championship, the Dutch Minister of Labour has torpedoed the contract, by asking the club to find a Dutch coach. Feyenoord's business manager Peter Siephan is insisting there is no available Dutchman good enough, and hoping to get his way.

MANFRED Kaltz, the Hamburger SV sweeper who replaced Franz Beckenbauer in the West German team, is asking for pay parity with Kevin Keegan. Apparently Kaltz is being paid 280,000 DM (approx. £70,000) per annum compared to the 400,000 DM Keegan is being paid.

BRITISH CHANTS

AS PSV were beating Bastia to win the U.E.F.A. Cup, Dutch fans were chanting: "We are the Champions" and "Whatever will be, will be . . ."

Yes, in English! They see so much of our League soccer on T.V. in Holland they have picked up the British chants.

UNSHAVEN CAPTAIN

DON'T be surprised if Spanish captain Pirri looks unshaven in your World Cup pictures. During Real Madrid's title run, Pirri didn't have time to shave before four matches — and Real went on to beat Elche 5-1; Rayo Vallecano 5-2; Real Sociedad 5-0; and Barcelona 4-0! So Pirri has decided his "five o'clock shadow" brings him luck!

ARGENTINA'S ace striker Mario Kempes (seen here, right, with manager Cesar Luis Menotti) is receiving £700 from a Danish firm for every goal he scores during the World Cup. And if he finishes the tournament as top scorer he'll receive a bonus of £1,000.



JOHN Burridge, Crystal Palace's goalkeeper, is convinced the go-ahead South London club are destined to become a real force in English soccer.

"I'm not going to say it'll definitely be next season we make the big breakthrough," says John. "Or even the following term for that matter. But I'm absolutely certain that within say, five years, we'll be right up there with this country's elite."

What makes John so sure about the future?

"Our manager, Terry Venables, has got together just about the most talented bunch of youngsters I think I've ever seen.

"Already they're showing tremendous maturity for their age — and they can't help getting better as they get older and stronger.

"The fact the club won the F.A. Youth Cup for the second year in succession underlines what I have been saying. And several of those players have already gained considerable first team experience. In fact, sometimes out there on the park, I feel quite old, even though I'm only 25 myself.

"The reason I say it might take a few years is because Terry has made it quite clear he doesn't want to rush things. He knows he's got the foundation of a great side, and he steadily intends to build on that.

"He just tells the lads to go out there and play to their strengths, and to enjoy themselves.

"You mark my words, lads like Vince Hilaire and Ken Sansom will be household names to soccer fans in a few years' time."

John is a comparative newcomer to the Palace scene, having joined them last March in a £50,000 deal from

Aston Villa, which just beat the transfer deadline. And he insists it's been like starting his career all over again.

"I'd been going through my own, personal nightmare at Villa since the start of last season," he explained. "After helping the club to win the League Cup in 1977, I was on top of the world.

"Then the manager bought Jimmy Rimmer from Arsenal, and suddenly I found myself relegated to the reserves.

"That's where I stayed until Southend came along and asked me to join them on loan.

"They were challenging for promotion from Division Four at the time, and so I jumped at the chance of helping them.

"I'm the sort of bloke who loves to compete — with a capital 'C'. I want to be a winner in everything I do — whether it be a Cup Final or a game of ludo.

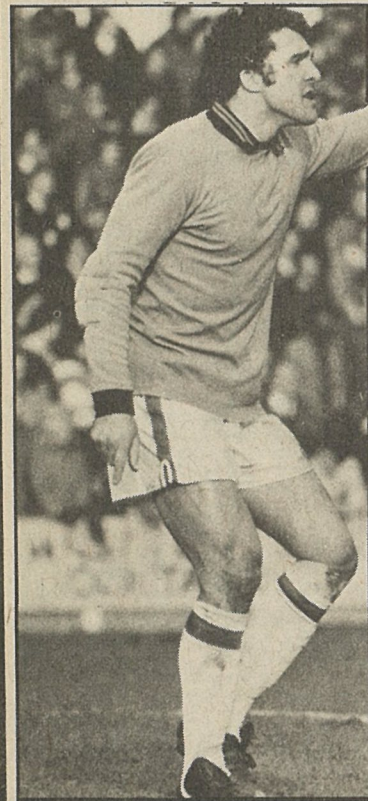
"Going to Southend meant I was leaving behind the terrible atmosphere of reserve team football, which was really depressing me, and joining a club who had something to aim for.

"I honestly enjoyed my time at Roots Hall. As a stranger to the area, I spent a lot of time with manager Dave Smith and his family, who couldn't have done more to make me feel at home. And I'm absolutely delighted they finally won promotion to the Third Division."

There was, in fact, talk of John joining Southend on a permanent basis, until Crystal Palace made their interest known.

"I only needed a few minutes with Terry Venables, before I knew this was the place for me," John went on.

'Palace will be the best in five years'



**PREDICTS
JOHN
BURRIDGE**

"He's got a terrific footballing brain, full of exciting ideas, and he seems to know exactly how to get the best out of people."

John was born at Custon in Cumbria, and played for his local side, Workington, then Blackpool, before joining Villa in a £100,000 deal in September, 1975.

Like so many people from the North, he'd heard the old stories about Southerners in general, and Londoners in particular, being difficult to get to know — and only being interested in themselves.

"But judging by my own experience, that couldn't have been further from the truth," he insisted.

"There really is a family atmosphere at Selhurst Park.

"The supporters, too, have been terrific. They tasted life in the First Division a few seasons ago, and were obviously very disappointed when the club slid down to the Third.

"But they stuck by their favourites, and now they can sense, like the rest of us, that the good times are on the way once again."

FLANAGAN and Robinson. Sounds like a comedy double act, doesn't it? But Charlton manager Andy Nelson reckons there won't be many Second Division defences laughing, once his relatively new striking partnership really gets cracking, next season.

Mike Flanagan, of course, has been at The Valley for a number of years — since 1970 in fact.

But Martin Robinson only joined the club towards the end of last season in a £15,000 move from fellow Londoners, Spurs.

It was a deal which Andy Nelson

first and was really impressed by the whole set-up there.

"A move there also fitted in with my marriage plans, because I'd already bought a house on the outskirts of London. So it wasn't difficult for me to decide it was Charlton the club, and not Charlton the manager, I would join."

Like his new boss, Martin is eagerly looking forward to the 1978-79 campaign.

"I didn't really get the chance to settle down alongside Mike Flanagan last season. We only played a couple of times together because

CHARLTON'S DOUBLE ACT WON'T MAKE DEFENCES LAUGH



Martin Robinson

was pleased at pulling off.

"I'm convinced that joining us will be Martin's big break," said a jubilant Nelson. "The lad has tremendous potential, and was quick to show his confidence in tight situations, proving what a good player he already is."

Martin, a shy, likeable 20-year-old, told SHOOT: "It's certainly very nice to know the boss has got so much confidence in me. I only hope I can live up to his expectation."

Martin gets married this month (June) and that's one reason he's still on the London scene when, in fact, he could well have been around 160 miles further North, in Sheffield.

"Keith Burkinshaw, the Spurs manager, had told me there was no chance of getting into the first team because of the abundance of strikers he had at White Hart Lane," explained Martin. "And naturally enough, I certainly didn't relish the idea of staying at a club where I wasn't wanted. So it was mutually agreed I should be made available for transfer.

"As well as Andy Nelson, Jack Charlton, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, enquired about me.

"But I went along to The Valley

Mike was having trouble with injuries. Then he had to leave to play in America.

"But judging by the little time we did spend together in the side, I'm sure we can strike up a more than useful partnership.

"As an individual, I was quite pleased with the way I settled down in the side. Especially as I came in at a critical time, when we suddenly found ourselves with a relegation battle on our hands.

"But scoring six times in my first nine games gave me confidence."

Martin had joined Tottenham straight from school, and made his first team debut against Leicester City on February 28th, 1976, when he was only 18. He followed that up by coming on as substitute two games later against Aston Villa, and managed to get his name on the score-sheet that day.

"At the time I knew I'd only got into the side because of injuries to other players," he said. "But I hoped that after such a bright start, I might be given another chance to show what I could do. It never came, though."

Martin has found Charlton's style of play differs from that which he was used to at Spurs.

"Here, the boss likes me to stay up-front all the time. He told me my job is scoring goals, not defending. And most of our attacks build up with fast breaks along the wings, with crosses coming over to the near post.

"At Spurs it was more of a slow build-up through the team."

Although the club finished at the wrong end of the table last season, Martin doesn't expect the situation to be repeated.

"The club just hit a bad patch, that's all," he said. "It happens to every outfit at some time or another. It's just that we had ours at a critical time."

"For the first half of the season the side were right up there with the front runners, and many people were talking of promotion.

"That's exactly the way I hope it'll be next season. Only this time, we've got to make sure we can stay the course."

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

FOURTH DIVISION

NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Reilly pen., McGowan)
DARLINGTON (1) 2 (Young, Jones) 3,181
 Northampton: Jayes; Geidmintis, Mead, Liddle, Robertson, Bryant, Farrington, Williams, McGowan, Reilly, Christie.
 Darlington: Owers; Crosson, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Young, Maitland, Lyons, Stone, Jones, Wann.

SWANSEA (3) 3 (Bruton, Curtis 2)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Oates) 13,228
 Swansea: Barber; Evans, Morris, Bartley, May, Bruton, Moore, James (R), Curtis, Toshack, Charles.
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Keeley (Davy), Couch, Wigg.

WATFORD (1) 1 (Blissett)
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (McCulloch) 16,544
 Watford: Rankin; How, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Downes, Mayes, Mercer (Pollard), Bond, Blissett.
 Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, Shrubbs, Kruse, Graham (W), Carlton, Graham (J), Allder, McCulloch, Phillips.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

FIRST DIVISION

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 (Deehan, Little, Mortimer)
LEEDS (0) 1 (Hankin) 30,524
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Smith, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Gray, Cowans, Carrodus.
 Leeds: Harvey; Madeley, Hampton, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Gray (F), Hankin, Clarke, Currie, Graham.

LEICESTER (0) 0
CHELSEA (1) 2 (Walker, Wilkins, R.) 12,170
 Leicester: Wallington; Dawkins, Whitworth, Williams, Sims, Webb, Goodwin, Davies, Smith (Roberts), Salmons, Hamilton.
 Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Harris, Hay, Droy, Wicks, Swain, Wilkins (R), Langley, Finnieston, Walker.

NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Kennedy, Burns)
NORWICH (0) 2 (Ryan, Reeves) 7,600
 Newcastle: Carr; Kelly, Kennedy, Barton, Blackley, Callaghan, Barrowclough, Burns, McGhee, Larnach, Walker.
 Norwich: Baker; Bond, Sullivan, Halsey, Jones, Powell, Neighbour, Reeves, Robson, Ryan, Peters.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKBURN (0) 0
BOLTON (1) 1 (Worthington) 27,835
 Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Metcalfe, Keeley, Waddington, Brotherton, Lewis, Radford, Parkes, Wagstaffe.
 Bolton: McDonagh; Ritson, Dunne, Greaves, Walsh, Allardyce, Morgan, Whatmore, Train, Reid, Worthington.

STOKE (1) 3 (Kendall, O'Callaghan, Busby)
OLDHAM (0) 0 11,260
 Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Dodd, Richardson (Waddington), Busby, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Conroy.
 Oldham: Platt; Hoollikin, Edwards (S), Bell, Edwards (P), Hurst, Hilton, Taylor, Young, Halom, Gardner.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Perryman)
HULL (0) 0 36,913
 Tottenham: Daines; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddle, McAllister, Perryman, Pratt, McNab, Jones, Duncan, Taylor.
 Hull: Blackburn; Daniel, DeVries, Nisbet, Croft, Roberts, Hood, Haigh, Warboys, Bannister, Stewart.

THIRD DIVISION

BRADFORD C (2) 2 (Hutchins 2)
SWINDON (0) 1 (Carter) 3,448
 Bradford C: Downsbrough; Podd, Wood, Johnson, Cooke, Middleton, Watson, Dolan, Wright, McNiven, Hutchins.
 Swindon: Allan; McLaughlin, Ford, Stroud, Aizlewood, Prophet, Moss, Carter, Guthrie, Gilligan (McHale), Cunningham.

CHESTER (2) 2 (Livermore pen., Mellor)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 2,837
 Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Ranor, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Livermore, Howat, Mellor, Phillips.
 Portsmouth: Middleton; Wilson, Taylor, Ellis, Foster, Denyer, Pullar, Lathan, Garwood, Piper (S), Mellows.

CHESTERFIELD (1) 5 (Cottam, Cammack, Dearden, Green, Fern pen.)
GILLINGHAM (0) 2 (Price, Crabbe) 2,750
 Chesterfield: Tingay; Tarrt, Burton, Pollard, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Fern, Green, Kowalski, Dearden.
 Gillingham: Wheatley; Knight, Buttress, Overton, Young, Crabbe, Walker, Nicholl, Price, Richardson, Hughes.

EXETER (1) 4 (Bowker 2, Delve, Hatch)
TRANMERE (1) 2 (Allen, Cliff) 3,156
 Exeter: Key; Templeman, Hore, Delve, Giles, Bowker, Forbes, Kellow, Randall, Ingham, Hatch.
 Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Philpotts, Evans, Craven, Cliff, Moore, Tynan, Allen.

LINCOLN (1) 2 (Harford, Hobson)
CARLISLE (1) 1 (Kemp) 3,384
 Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Leigh, Fleming, Wigington, Cooper, Hobson, Hughes, Harford, Hubbard, Harding.
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Collins, McCartney, Tait, McDonald, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Lumby, Kemp, Hamilton.

OXFORD (3) 3 (Briggs, Duncan, Taylor)
PETERBOROUGH (1) 3 (Robson, Turner, Slough pen.) 4,652
 Oxford: Burton; Kingston, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Jeffrey, White, Taylor, Foley, Seacole, Duncan.
 Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Hughes, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Slough, McEwan, Butlin, Anderson, Robson.

FOURTH DIVISION

READING (1) 1 (Clements o.g.)
YORK (0) 0 2,212
 Reading: Turner; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Wanklyn, Kearney, Sanchez, Davies.
 York: Neenan; Clements, Hunter, Scott, Topping, James (Taylor), Novacki, Young, Randall, McDonald, Stanforth.

TORQUAY (2) 3 (Lawrence 2, Cooper)
BARNLEY (1) 1 (Little) 1,920
 Torquay: Lee; Twitchin, Parsons, Raper, Green, Dunne, Tomlin, Boulton, Cooper, Lawrence, Coffill.
 Barnley: Springett; Murphy, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Riley, Prendergast, Jocey, Little, Brown (Millar).

SCOTTISH PREMIER

CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (Houston)
CELTIC (0) 1 (Conroy) 4,000
 Clydebank: Gallacher; Gourlay, Abel, Fallon, McCormack, Houston, Geighan, (Colgan), Lumsden, McNaughton, McColl, O'Brien.
 Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, Lynch, Edvaldsson, McDonald, Conroy, McCluskey, Glavin, Craig, McAdam, Doyle (Mackie).

DUNDEE UTD (3) 3 (Holt, Fleming, Wallace)
AYR (0) 1 (McAllister) 2,735
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Robinson, Stewart, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Sturrock, Wallace (Dodds), Bourke, Holt, Payne (Kirkwood).
 Ayr: McLean; Wells, McAllister, Fleming, Hyslop (McCall), Kelly, McLaughlin, McSherry, McLelland, McCulloch, Phillips (Christie).

PARTICK (4) 5 (McAdam 2, Melrose, McQuade, O'Hara)
ST. MIRREN (0) 0 2,000
 Partick: Rough; Mackie, Kellachan, Campbell, Marr, Love, McQuade, O'Hara, McAdam, Melrose, Craig.
 St. Mirren: McCulloch; McGettrick, Beckett, Stark, Copland, Young, Abercrombie (Bell), Torrance, Leonard (Dunlop), Richardson, Munro.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

THIRD DIVISION

TRANMERE (1) 1 (Moore)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Cammack) 2,035

Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Philpotts, Evans, Craven, Peplow, Moore, Tynan, Allen.
 Chesterfield: Tingay; Tarrt, Burton, Pollard, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Fern, Green (Parker), Kowalski, Dearden.

FOURTH DIVISION

STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Massey pen.)
CREWE (1) 2 (Davies W. Thorpe o.g.) 3,106
 Stockport: Rogan; Thorpe, Rutter, Fletcher (Schofield), Smith, Park, Massey, Loadwick, Summerbee, Prudham, McBeth.
 Crewe: Crudgington; Bevan, Roberts, Lugg, Bowles, Rimmer, McGinley, Cheetham, Davies (W), Coyne, Tully.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (1) 1 (Stapleton)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 32,238
 Arsenal: Jennings; Devine, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Hudson, Sunderland, Macdonald, Stapleton, Rix.
 Middlesbrough: Brown; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, Ramage, Mills, Cummins (Woof), Ashcroft, McAndrew, Armstrong.

ASTON VILLA (4) 6 (Deehan 2, Gray, Little, Carrodus, Cowans)
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Whymark) 30,955
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Smith, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Gray, Cowans, Carrodus.
 Ipswich: Overton; Burley, Mills, Talbot, Hunter, Osman, Vijjoen, Wark, Geddis, Whymark, Woods.

BRISTOL C. (0) 1 (Royle)
COVENTRY (0) 1 (Wallace) 21,045
 Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Merrick, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Mann, Whitehead (Mabbutt).
 Coventry: Blyth; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Coop, Osgood, Green (Beck), Wallace, Ferguson, Powell, Hutchison.

EVERTON (2) 6 (Dobson, Wright, Robinson, Latchford 2, 1 pen., Lyons)
CHELSEA (0) 0 39,504
 Everton: Wood; Robinson, Pejic, Lyons, Wright, Buckley, King, Dobson, Latchford, Telfer, Thomas.
 Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Harris, Swain, Droy, Wicks, Finnieston, Wilkins (R), Langley, Lewington, Walker.

LEICESTER (1) 3 (Goodwin, Davies, Salmons)
NEWCASTLE (0) 0 11,530
 Leicester: Wallington; Dawkins, Whitworth, Williams, Sims, Webb, Christie, Goodwin, Davies, Salmons, Hamilton.
 Newcastle: Carr; Kelly, Blackhall, Callaghan, Nulty, Barton, Guy, Burns, McGhee (Robinson), Callaghan, Larnach.



West Brom's Laurie Cunningham played a vital part in his side's 1-1 draw at Norwich City.

MAN. CITY (1) 1 (Channon)
DERBY (1) 1 (Daly) 39,175
 Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Booth, Watson, Owen (Barnes), Channon, Bell, Kidd, Hartford, Power.
 Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Rioch, McFarland, Todd, Curran, Daly, Chesters, George, Ryan.

NORWICH (0) 1 (Forbes)
W.B.A. (1) 1 (Regis) 18,317
 Norwich: Baker; Bond, Sullivan, Ryan, Forbes, Powell (Lythgoe), Neighbour, Reeves, Robson, Suggett, Peters.
 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Cantello, Robson, Regis, Hughes, Cunningham.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0
BIRMINGHAM 0 37,625
 Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Barrett, McGovern, Needham, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill, Withe, Woodcock (Bowyer), Robertson.
 Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Pendery, Emmanuel, Gallagher, Broadhurst, Dillon, Francis, Bertschin, Hibbitt, Fox.

Q.P.R. 0
LEEDS 0 23,993
 Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Shanks, McGee, Wallace (Goddard), James, Bowles, Givens.
 Leeds: Harvey; Madeley, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Gray (E), Hankin, Clarke, Currie, Graham.

WEST HAM (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (McDermott, Fairclough) 37,448
 West Ham: Ferguson; Bonds, Lampard, Martin, Taylor (T) (Devonshire), Green, Curbishley, Holland, Cross, Brookings, Robson.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hansen, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Dalglish, Case, Fairclough, McDermott, Souness.

WOLVES (0) 2 (Patching, Eves)
MAN. UTD. (1) 1 (Greenhoff, B) 24,774
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Berry, Hazell, McAlle, Patching, Daley, Richards, Rafferty, Eves.
 Man. U: Stepney; Albiston, Houston, Nicholl, McQueen, Greenhoff (B) (McCreery), Coppell, Jordan, Pearson, McIlroy, Grimes.

SECOND DIVISION

BOLTON 0
FULHAM 0 34,110
 Bolton: McDonagh; Ritson, Dunne, Greaves, Walsh, Allardyce, Gowing, Whatmore, Train, Reid, Worthington.
 Fulham: Peyton; Money, Mason, Bullivant, Lacy, Gale, Greenaway, Evanson, Mitchell (Lovell), Davis, Margerrison.

BRIGHTON (0) 2 (Ward, Horton pen.)
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Hutton) 33,431
 Brighton: Moseley; Tiler, Williams, Horton, Winstanley, Lawrenson, Townner, Ward, Poskett, Ruggiero (Potts), O'Sullivan.
 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Weston, Thompson, McEwan, Suddaby, Tong, Ronson, Walsh, Hutton, Ainscow.

BURNLEY (1) 2 (Futcher, P, o.g., Smith)
LUTON (1) 1 (Ingram) 11,628
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Robinson, Cochrane, Ingham, Fletcher, Kinson, Smith.
 Luton: Aleksic; Price, Jones, Hill, McNichol, Futcher (P), Stein, West, Ingram, Fucillo (Boersma), Heale.

C. PALACE (3) 5 (Harkouk, Walsh, Swindlehurst 3)
BLACKBURN (0) 0 12,664
 Palace: Fry; Hinshelwood (P), Sansom, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Silkman, Chatterton, Swindlehurst, Walsh, Harkouk.
 Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Metcalfe, Keeley, Waddington (Brotherton), Taylor, Lewis, Radford, Parkes, Wagstaffe.

HULL (0) 0
BRISTOL R. (1) 1 (Randall) 3,645
 Hull: Blackburn; Daniel, DeVries, Nisbet, Croft, Roberts, Hawker, Hood, McDonald, Bannister, Stewart (Warboys).
 Bristol R: Thomas; Aitken, Bater, Pulis, Taylor, Day, Gould, Williams, Randall, Prince, Barry.

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Pate)
ORIENT (0) 1 (Mayo) 6,336
 Mansfield: Arnold; Pate, Foster (B), Foster (C), Saxby, Bird, Miller, Martin, Syrett, Hodgson, Aston.

Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Payne, Headley, Roeder, Clarke (Banjo), Payne, Mayo, Kitchen, Bennett.

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Walker, Hazell pen.)
OLDHAM (0) 0 7,022
 Millwall: Johns; Donaldson, Moore, Allen, Kitchener, Hazell, Lee, Hamilton, Seasman, Walker, Pearson.
 Oldham: Platt; Hoolickin, Holt, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Heaton, Taylor, Young, Halom, Edwards (S).

SHEFF. UTD. (0) 0
CARDIFF (0) 1 (Evans) 13,687
 Sheff. U: Brown; Cutbush, Calvert, Speight, Keeley, Flynn, Woodward, Campbell, Edwards (Franks), Hamson, Stainrod.
 Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Pethard, Campbell, Pontin, Larmour, Grapes, Bishop, Went, Evans, Buchanan.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
TOTTENHAM 0 28,846
 Southampton: Wells; Andrzejewski, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, MacDougall, Holmes, Funnell.
 Tottenham: Daines; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddie, McAllister, Perryman, Pratt, Duncan (Armstrong), Jones, McNab, Taylor.

STOKE (0) 1 (Crooks)
NOTTS CO. (0) 1 (Bradd) 13,789
 Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott (Waddington), Kendall, Smith, Dodd, Richardson, Busby, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Conroy.
 Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Chapman, Stubbs, Hunt, Carter, McVay, Bradd, Mann (Benjamin), Vinter.

SUNDERLAND (2) 3 (Bolton 2, Rowell)
CHARLTON (0) 0 16,718
 Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Kerr, Clarke, Ashurst, Roston (Elliott), Gregoire, Lee, Docherty, Rowell.
 Charlton: Wood; Berry, Warman, Madden, Shipperley, Dugdale, Gritt, Robinson, Peacock, Brisley, McAuley.

THIRD DIVISION

BRADFORD C. (1) 2 (Watson, Dolan, pen.)
WALSALL (3) 3 (Evans, Austin, Bates) 5,110
 Bradford C: Downsbrough; Podd, Wood, Johnson, Cooke, Middleton, Watson (Baines), Dolan, Wright, McNiven, Hutchins.
 Walsall: Kearns; Macken, Caswell, Harrison, Serella, Evans, Dennehy, Bates, Austin, Buckley, Birch.

CAMBRIDGE (0) 2 (Finney, Fallon)
EXETER (0) 1 (Bowker) 8,741
 Cambridge: Webster; Howart, Buckley, Stringer, Fallon, Smith, Cozens, Spriggs (Morgan), Sweetzer, Finney, Biley.
 Exeter: Key; Templeman, Hore, Delve, Giles, Hatch, Forbes, Kellow, Randall, Bowker, Ingham (Hodge).

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Bonnyman, Lumby)
SWINDON (1) 2 (Guthrie, Carter) 4,351
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Collins, McCartney, Tait, McLean, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Lumby, Kemp, Hamilton.
 Swindon: Allan; McLaughlin, Ford (Cunningham), Carter, Aizlewood, Proppett, Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Bates.

CHESTER (1) 4 (Howat, Oakes, Turner o.g., Mellor)
PETERBOROUGH (1) 3 (Slough 3 pens.) 4,237
 Chester: Lloyd; Nickas, Raynor, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Livermore, Howat, Mellor, Phillips.
 Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Hughes, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Slough, McEwan, Butlin, Anderson, Robson.

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Dowman)
SHEFF. WED. (0) 1 (Rushbury) 4,337
 Colchester: Walker; Cotton (Evans), Williams, Leslie, Wignall, Dowman, Dyer, Packer, Foley, Gough, Allinson.
 Sheff. W: Turner; Walden, Grant, Rushbury, Dowd (McKeown), Smith, Nimmo, Porterfield, Owen, Leman, Hornsby.

GILLINGHAM 0
LINCOLN 0 5,481
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Knight, Armstrong, Overton, Young, Crabbe, Walker, Nicholl, Price, Westwood, Hughes.
 Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Leigh, Fleming, Wigginton, Cooper, Hobson, Graham, Harford, Hubbard, Hughes.

HEREFORD (1) 1 (Barton)
WREXHAM (0) 1 (Thomas) 10,183
 Hereford: Hughes; Houston, Burrows Marshall, Layton, Sheedy, Emery, Holmes, Crompton, Barton, Spirling.
 Wrexham: Davies; Dwyer, Evans, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Hill, Whittle, Cartwright.

OXFORD 0
BURY 0 3,997
 Oxford: Burton; Kingston, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Jeffrey, White, Taylor, Foley, Seacole, Duncan.
 Bury: Forrest; Keenan, Bailey, Hamstead, Hatton, Farrell, Robins, Stanton, Rowland, McLwraith, Madden.

PLYMOUTH (1) 3 (Johnson, Binney 2)
PORT VALE (1) 2 (Beamish, Froggatt) 9,474
 Plymouth: Hodge; Bason, James, Taylor, Foster, Horswill, Johnson, Harrison, Binney, Perrin, Fear.
 Port Vale: Connaughton; Bentley, Dulson, Ridley, Harris, Hawkins, Bromage, Moore, Froggatt, Beamish (Sutcliffe), Bailey.

PRESTON (1) 2 (Elwiss, Bruce)
SHREWSBURY (2) 2 (Atkins, Keay) 16,078
 Preston: Tunks; McMahon, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, Cross, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson (Doyle), Elwiss, Bruce.
 Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Leonard, Keay, Hayes, Lindsay, Irvine, Turner, Atkins, Beggins, Maguire.

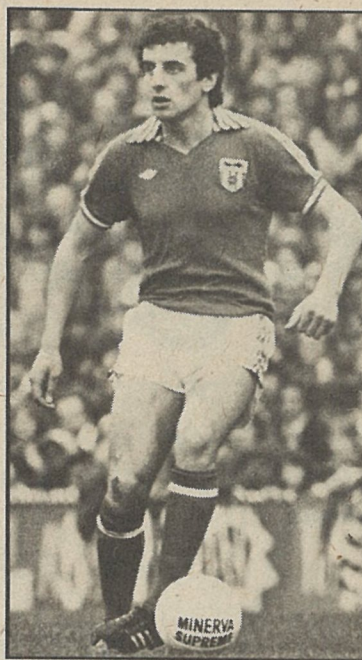
ROTHERHAM (0) 0
PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Denyer) 3,718
 Rotherham: McAlister; Pugh, Breckin, Forrest, Stancliffe, Green, Dawson (Young), Phillips, Gwyther, Goodfellow, Crawford.
 Portsmouth: Knight; Wilson, Taylor, Ellis, Foster, Denyer, Pullar, Lathan, Garwood, Piper (S), Mellows.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (1) 3 (Dungworth 3, 1 pen.)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 3,624
 Aldershot: Johnson; Dixon, Wooler, Crosby, Youlden, Jopling (Howitt), Longhorn, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, Hooper.
 Hartlepool: Livesey; Malone, Creamer, Hogan, Ayre, Smith (G), Linacre, Lawrence, Houchen, McMaster (Bielby), Larkin.

BARNLEY (2) 3 (Miller 2, 1 pen., Riley)
WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Connell 2) 2,479
 Barnley: Springett; Pugh, Chambers, Collier, Saunders, McCarthy, Riley, Peachey, Miller, Little, Brown.
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bradley, Eames, Briley, Galvin, Donaldson, Leslie, Denny, Connell, Cork, Cowley.

DARLINGTON (1) 1 (Lyons pen.)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Wigg) 1,302
 Darlington: Owers; Crosson, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Young, Maitland, Lyons (Seal), Jones, Wann, Stone.



Joe Bolton scored twice in Sunderland's 3-0 home victory against Charlton.

Scunthorpe: Crawford; Davy, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, O'Donnell, Kilmore, Couch (Heron), Keeley, Wigg.

DONCASTER (1) 2 (Laidlaw 2, 1 pen.)
READING (1) 2 (Bowman 2) 1,670
 Doncaster: Peacock; Reed, Robinson, Laidlaw, Cannell, Taylor, Miller, Olney, Habbins, Owen (Jones), Bailey.
 Reading: Turner; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Kearney, Wanklyn, Lewis, Davies.

GRIMSBY (1) 2 (Waters, Broly)
BRENTFORD (1) 1 (Phillips) 4,469
 Grimsby: Wainman; Mawer, Booth (Liddell), Waters, Moore, Hanvey, Ford, Donovan, Lester, Cumming, Broly.
 Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, Shrubbs, Kruse, Graham (W), Carlton, Graham (J), Alder (Lloyd), McCulloch, Phillips.

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 (Goldthorpe, Holmes pen.)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 1,638
 Huddersfield: Taylor; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Sutton, Branagan, Butler, Hart, Goldthorpe, Johnson, Gray.
 Bournemouth: Baker; Cunningham, Miller, Impey, Brown, Butler, Johnson, Showers, Finnigan, Lennard, Riley.

NEWPORT (1) 1 (Emanuel)
SOUTHEND (0) 2 (Townsend, Parker) 2,364
 Newport: Plumley; Steel, Relish, Emanuel, Walker (R), McLaughlin, Vaughan, Goddard (Williams), Clark, Lowndes, Byrne.
 Southend: Freeman; Banks, Dudley, Laverick, Townsend, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Goodwin, Fell.

ROCHDALE (1) 1 (O'Loughlin pen.)
TORQUAY (0) 3 (Dunne 2, 1 pen, Cooper) 1,002
 Rochdale: Shyne; Hallows, Hart, Bannon, Scott, Boslem (Price), Tarbuck, Oliver, Owen, Hilditch, O'Loughlin.

Torquay: Lee; Twitchin, Parsons, Payne, Boulton, Dunne, Raper, Lawrence, Cooper, Tomlin, Coffill.

SWANSEA (0) 2 (Toshack, Curtis)
HALIFAX (0) 0 16,130
 Swansea: Barber; Evans, Morris, Bruton, May, Bartley, Moore, James (R), Curtis, Toshack, Charles.
 Halifax: Leonard; Bradley, Loska, Smith, Burke, Trainer, Firth, Flavell, Mountford, Lawson, Bell.

WATFORD (3) 3 (Pritchett 2 pens, Blissett)
SOUTHPORT (1) 2 (Fisher pen., Cooper) 10,089
 Watford: Rankin; McClennaghan, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Downes, Mayes, Blissett, Bond, Pollard.
 Southport: Harrison; Kisby, Snookes, O'Neil, Higham, Fisher, Hilton, Wilson, Jones, Gay, Cooper.

YORK (0) 0
NORTHAMPTON (1) 3 (Reilly 2, Williams) 1,239
 York: Neenan; Young, Hunter, Scott, Topping, Bainbridge, Novacki, Taylor, Randall, McDonald, Stanforth.
 Northampton: Jayes; Geldmintis, Mead, Liddle, Robertson, Bryant, Farrington, Williams, McGowan, Reilly, Christie (Walsall).

SCOTTISH PREMIER

CLYDEBANK (0) 0
AYR (1) 2 (McLaughlin pen., Cramond) 800
 Clydebank: Gallacher; Gourlay, Abel, Fallon, McCormack, Houston, Geighan, Gervise (Colgan), Miller, McColl (Bradbury), O'Brien.
 Ayr: McLean; Wells, Connor, McCall, McAllister, Kelly (Fleming), Phillips (McCulloch), McSherry, McLelland, McLaughlin, Cramond.

DUNDEE UTD (3) 5 (Wallace, Addison 2, Stewart, Kirkwood)
PARTICK (0) 2 (McAdam, Somner) 3,546
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Robinson, Stewart, Fleming, Hegarty (Payne), Narey, Sturrock, Wallace (Kirkwood), Bourke, Holt, Addison.
 Partick: Rough; McAdam, Kellachan, Campbell, Marr, Love, McQuade (Mackie), O'Hara, Somner, Melrose (Whittaker), Craig.

HIBS (0) 1 (Duncan)
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Scanlon) 11,350
 Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Smith, McNamara, Stewart, Bremner, Murray, McLeod, Rae, Duncan, Higgins.
 Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Ritchie, McMaster, Garner, Miller, Sullivan, Fleming (Scanlon), Harper, Jarvie, Davidson.

RANGERS (2) 2 (Jackson, Smith)
MOTHERWELL (0) 0 40,000
 Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean (Watson), Russell, Johnstone, Smith, Cooper.
 Motherwell: Rennie; Watson (Miller), Kennedy, Mungall, McLaren, Stevens, Marinello, McLeod, Pettigrew (Sommerville), Lindsay, Clinging.

ST. MIRREN (1) 3 (Fitzpatrick, McGarvey, Bell)
CELTIC (1) 1 (Glavin pen.) 8,000
 St. Mirren: McCulloch; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, McGettrick, Stark, Bone, Richardson (Bell), McGarvey.
 Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, Lynch (Craig), Edvaldsson, McDonald, Aitken, Glavin, Mackie, McAdam, Conroy, McCluskey.

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THE season couldn't finish swiftly enough for Celtic players. From the opening League match against Dundee United at Parkhead to the last game against St. Mirren at Love Street it was one long nightmare.

The previous term had been one of celebration. Jock Stein's men won the Premier Division Championship and the Scottish Cup. And they were just pipped by an extra-time goal from Davie Robb in the League Cup Final.

Things couldn't be better. Danny McGrain and Kenny Dalglish were two players of genuine world class ability. Pat Stanton was sweeping superbly at the back of the defence, goalkeeper Peter Latchford was showing the sort of form that brought him English Under-23 caps, Joe Craig was scoring goals, Alfie Conn was showing entrancing form and youngsters Roy Aitken, Roddie MacDonald and Tommy Burns were maturing in every game.

The bookmakers, seldom struggling to afford champagne and cigars, installed them as favourites for a clean sweep the next season. Things, as we know now, didn't quite turn out as expected for the Parkhead men.

They won nothing, failed to clinch a place in Europe for the first time in 17 years, could win only 15 of their 36 League games, conceded 54 goals in those matches, went out of the Scottish Cup to First Division part-timers Kilmarnock, were knocked out of the European Cup in the Second Round by Austria's SWW Innsbruck, went down to Rangers in the League Cup Final and then the real bombshell — Jock Stein resigned and was replaced by former player and Aberdeen boss Billy McNeill.

It's a distressing and disturbing catalogue of disaster for anyone connected with the Parkhead side. Excuses and reasons have been made for the resounding flop. It's true injuries to key men such as Danny McGrain, Pat Stanton and Alfie Conn severely hampered the club. However, now is the time to look to the future. The past is well and truly dead so far as Celtic are concerned.

What can we expect from Billy McNeill and his team next season?



Rangers' 'keeper Stewart Kennedy saves a shot from Celtic's Roy Aitken (number four). The Ibrox club won 3-1.

After a disastrous 1977-78... **CAN CELTIC BOUNCE BACK NEXT SEASON?**

Celtic have taken a punch flush on the chin that has put them down for the count. Can McNeill bring them bouncing back?

Celtic are an extremely proud club, fiercely dedicated to their tradition as an entertaining, enthusiastic, attacking side. At no time during last season, even under their mounting pile of problems, did they resort from their attacking attitudes. Alas, they did not have the players to carry them through the crisis.

A large chunk of Celtic's potential will be restored if skipper Danny McGrain makes a complete comeback from the injury which wrecked his club and international season. McGrain's return will be something like Celtic spending £400,000 for a player in the transfer market.

And what about Conn and Stanton? The former Rangers and Spurs raider is hardly noted for his consistency, but he knows he

must deliver the goods next season. Veteran Stanton did a superb job two seasons ago, but Celtic must surely be looking for a replacement to play alongside MacDonald.

Two players immediately spring to mind — Aberdeen's cultured Willie Miller and Dundee United's rock-like Davie Narey. To get either Celtic boss McNeill would have to dig deep into the Parkhead coffers. There is no one coming through at Parkhead at the moment, though, who could step in and save the club splashing out.

The midfield has lacked urgency and subtlety while the forward line has been crying out for a consistent scorer. Celtic have already been linked with St. Mirren's Under-21 internationals Tony Fitzpatrick and Frank McGarvey. Both would undoubtedly be welcomed to Parkhead with open arms.

Again Celtic would have to splash out.

It's true, though, that several managers in Scotland are more prepared to sell their top stars to English clubs instead of either Celtic or Rangers.

One boss told SHOOT: "I would even let one of my players go for a smaller fee to an English club rather than see him end up playing in an Old Firm team. We bring on good youngsters, develop their talents and then either Celtic or Rangers move in."

Celtic's immediate remedy, therefore, lies in the transfer market. Their long term answer must be provided by youngsters breaking through from the reserves. In the past players such as Lou Macari, Davie Hay, George Connelly and Kenny Dalglish have come through this way. That quality conveyor belt is not nearly so productive these days.

The Parkhead reserves were thrashed several times during their own lamentable season and that, too, must be a worrying feature. Serviceable players are being brought along in the second team, but there is a noted lack of brilliance.

Celtic will kick-off next season as the most determined team in Scotland. They can concentrate on the domestic front. They can look for revenge on a lot of sides.

Scotland needs a strong Celtic side. The Parkhead have done a small nation proud by their soccer exploits in the past. There are problems that must be solved and money must be spent.

Otherwise the famous Celtic are in grave danger of becoming "just another team". It's an unthinkable thought.



Pat Stanton (above) spent most of last season on the sidelines with injury. Celtic (below, hoops) under pressure during their European defeat by SWW Innsbruck.



Part
five...

OUR WEEK-BY-WEEK ACCOUNT OF THE

Week Ending DECEMBER 10

THREE-GOAL LEAD LOST

THE F.A. have given themselves another few days to decide who's going to get the "Big One" — the plush job of England manager — and, despite a lot going for Ron Greenwood, Brian Clough seems to be edging up in the popularity stakes. Southampton boss Lawrie McMenemy, too, has sound support.

All candidates are interviewed at Lancaster Gate on Monday — but, officially, no one's saying anything yet.

The Scots may be worthy British Champions — but there's at least a small Anglo hit-back on the club scene when Bristol City beat St. Mirren 3-2 on aggregate to come off best in the rather stormy Anglo-Scottish Cup.

Tuesday brings another super Liverpool triumph in the European Super Cup. Having already drawn 1-1 in Hamburg in the first-leg, The Reds demolish Keegan's new team 6-0 at Anfield for an overwhelming 7-1 aggregate.

Another top American export off the managerial field is Gordon Jago, once tipped as England boss. The former Q.P.R. chief quits Millwall to take over Tampa Bay Rowdies on a £60,000 contract. And Richard Dinnis, a month after being fired by Newcastle, takes up an offer from Philadelphia.

The Third Round of the U.E.F.A. Cup sees England one-up — and one-down. A brave 1-1 draw in Spain enables Villa to see off Atletico Bilbao 3-1 on aggregate — but Ipswich, with a three-goal lead from the first-leg, blow it against Barcelona.

FANS TOLD NOT TO GO

"DON'T fly to me," says Argentina unless you have cash and match tickets. Buenos Aires Government tells Scots fans to stay away from the World Cup Finals if they don't have high-class hotel accommodation and tickets for the games.

Travel agents warn: "If you don't have the cash — about £2,000 — forget it."

A Scottish Football Association spokesman adds: "I can't see anyone making it to Argentina on a shoestring as some fans may have done in the past for European games. It's just not the same thing at all."

In the Premier Division Celtic bring Thistle's great run to an end. Thistle, after going eight games without defeat, are beaten 3-0. Alan Rough their World

"King" Cruyff gets a couple of Barcelona's goals to level it at 3-3 — and then, put on the spot, Ipswich go down in the "sudden-death" penalty shoot-out.

Cruyff left Holland for Spain — but a Scotsman who may be going Dutch is Joe Jordan. Ajax are talking terms for the bustling Leeds striker — but both Liverpool and Manchester United are also more than interested in any move he might make.

There's a fair crop of goals for the Saturday fans to enjoy — eight players share nine in the Bolton-Cardiff game — but nothing cheerful for Villa's luckless Alex Cropley, who suffers the third broken leg of his career in the local derby with West Bromwich.

West Ham pay £180,000 for David Cross too late for him to play, but a 2-1 win over Manchester United cheers their lowly standing in the table — still topped by Forest, though now only by a single point over Everton.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Score: 6 — Bolton.
Total Goals: 120.
Hat-tricks: 0.
Table-toppers: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Bolton; Div 3, Wrexham; Div 4, Watford.
Highest Gate: 41,631 — Villa v. West Bromwich.
Total Gate: 556,102.
Average Gate: 13,240.

Cup 'keeper is carried off two minutes from time with a serious knee injury.

Rangers still at the top of the table with a 2-1 win over Dundee United. Aberdeen keep up their challenge, beating St Mirren 3-1.

In the Glasgow Colleges League Cup Hamilton Grads. go through to Round Three after scoring a record 30-0 win against Principals.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Gate: 27,000 (Celtic v. Thistle).
Premier Division Total Attendance: 67,500.
Total goals (3 Divisions): 61.
Table-toppers: Rangers.
Highest Score: (4) Dundee, Stranraer.

Week Ending DECEMBER 17

GREENWOOD IN CHARGE

IT'S settled at last, and Greenwood gets the green-light. He's been offered the England number one job until July, 1980. Meanwhile — at least according to the bookies — Cloughie may miss-out on the League title as well. They're now quoting currently second-placed Everton as 2-to-1 hot favourites.

"Yes" to Ron Greenwood — but "No" from Joe Jordan, who turns down terms reported to be around £800 a week, plus a cash payment of £30,000.

Jordan himself — presumably looking for something even better! — says: "I'm still not sure where my future lies."

Whatever happens, though, you can't keep Cloughie out of the news — now he weighs in with a surprise £140,000 transfer of Q.P.R.'s Dave Needham, who only signed from neighbouring Notts County six months ago.

That makes a total of £1 million in-and-out deals for Frank Sibley, youngest manager in the League, since he took over the Rangers hot-seat in the summer. And he's banking on another "in" £500,000 soon for a now-fit-again Gerry Francis.

Are the West Germans slipping? In a Dortmund friendly, the fighting Welsh force a magnificent 1-1 draw.

There's no early Christmas spirit in Saturday's games. Five bad boys get marching orders — and a fair number are booked.

Forest are back on song — winning 4-0 at Old Trafford — while nearest rivals Everton can only draw with struggling Birmingham. And crisis-club Newcastle ease their problems a little with a similar 4-0 win over Wolves.

In the F.A. Cup, Wigan put out Jack Charlton's Sheffield Wednesday — but they're not the only non-League giantkillers. Enfield win at Northampton, Blyth Spartans beat Chesterfield, and Wealdstone ditch Reading. And Scarborough (at Crewe), and Leamington (v. Southend), earn deserved replays against League opposition.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Score: 6 — Rotherham.
Total Goals: 103.
Hat-tricks: League 0, Cup 1 — Phillips (Rotherham v. Spennymoor).
Table-toppers: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Bolton; Div 3, Wrexham; Div 4, Watford.
Highest Gate: 54,374 — Man. Utd. v. Forest.
Total Gate: 548,140. Average Gate: 12,458.

RANGERS FIVE POINTS CLEAR

ABERDEEN manager Billy McNeill sees his title hopes jolted. He takes his team to Easter Road, Edinburgh, and watches from the dug-out as Hibs win.

In their 18th Premier Division game — exactly halfway — red-shirted, and red-faced Aberdeen go down 2-0.

Rangers find themselves facing the festive holiday programme in the best Championship position for years. By beating Motherwell 3-1 they go five points ahead of their nearest rivals, The Dons.

At a frenzied Love Street, Paisley, Celtic are 3-1 down with just 11 minutes to go. A disputed penalty allows them to cut St. Mirren's lead to 3-2. Then two minutes from time Joe Craig scrambles in an equaliser.

Clydebank look certain for the drop. They have just seven points from 16

games. A chill wind blows through Kilbowie Park as a makeshift Ayr United team picks up two points and two goals.

At Ibrox team boss Jock Wallace says the flag race is by no means over.

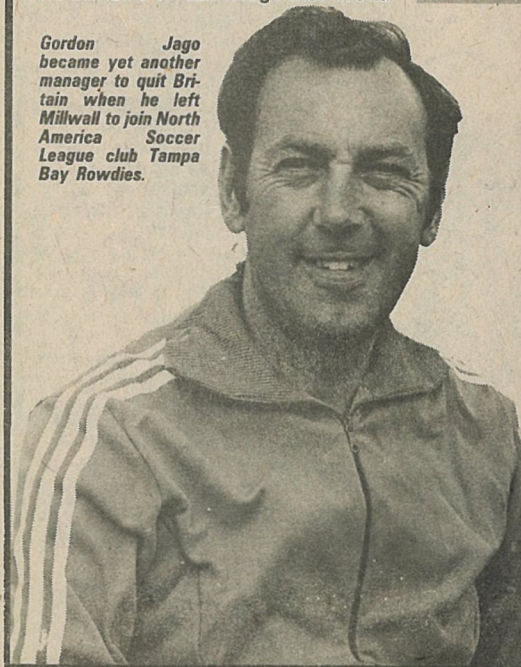
With his points lead, and a game in hand over Aberdeen, manager Wallace says: "We are only at mid-way. There are still a lot of hard, crucial matches ahead of us."

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Gate: 28,300 (Rangers v. Motherwell).
Premier Division Total Attendance: 59,710.
Total Goals (3 Divs.): 57.
Table-toppers: Rangers.
Highest Score: (4) Harts.

BELOW... Kevin Keegan's Hamburger SV were hammered 6-0, 7-1 on aggregate, by Liverpool in the European Super Cup. RIGHT... Dave Needham was transferred from Q.P.R. to Nottingham Forest.

Gordon Jago became yet another manager to quit Britain when he left Millwall to join North America Soccer League club Tampa Bay Rowdies.



1977-78 SEASON IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

Week Ending DECEMBER 24

UNITED CHASE JORDAN

THE season's dullest soccer-week — because it's Christmas Eve, the English game has a blank Saturday at the end of it — hasn't much more to offer than speculation about the F.A. Cup Third Round draw due to be played in the New Year.

Leeds United v. Manchester City seems potentially the best of the bunch to look forward to — though another interesting tie to come out of the bag is the Everton v. Aston Villa clash, a repeat of last season's two-replay League Cup Final.

Rightly or wrongly, Kenny Burns has sometimes earned himself a "bad-boy" tag — though Q.P.R. are happily prepared to lash out £280,000 for his gritty services. But Forest — who bought him from Birmingham for only half that amount six months ago — refuse to cash-in. Says manager Clough: "Burns is invaluable to us. He's not for sale — at any price."

Another potential move which falls through is that of Liverpool's John Toshack to Newcastle — but fast-sinking Manchester United have some £500,000 available to help bail them out of trouble. Joe Jordan, having turned down a move to Ajax, is high on United's priority list.

In the knock-out competitions, Scarborough become yet another non-

League club through to the Third Round — while, in a League Cup replay, Liverpool make up for their earlier Anfield lapse by convincingly winning at Coventry.

West Bromwich offer manager Ronnie Allen a shining new contract which would make him one of the country's best-paid team-bosses — but, after an exploratory trip to Saudi Arabia, it looks as if he may become another soccer exile in the sand.

Now the League is said to be watching the efforts of Jimmy ("Action Replay") Hill — who doubles-up TV with acting as the Saudi's recruiting-sergeant — to entice our top managers. Too late in this case — and Allen looks out his passport. Meanwhile centre-half John Wile takes over as Albion caretaker-manager.

It may be Christmas — but transfers (or, at least, potential ones) are still to the fore. Both Manchester United, perilously near the relegation zone — and Ipswich, shocked by summary exits from both the U.E.F.A. and League Cups — seem poised to spark-off a big scramble once the last cracker is pulled.

No Saturday games — so all English fans can talk about is Aberdeen's 4-0 whacking of Rangers over the border (where they save their own festivities for another week!).

DONS HAT-TRICK

JOE HARPER sends his own special Christmas greetings to the Aberdeen fans by ripping Rangers apart at Pittodrie.

The chunky striker turns goal-maker in his side's 4-0 thrashing of the title leaders. Having already beaten Rangers 3-1 on two previous occasions they make it a hat-trick of wins and end the Ibrox club's run of 15 League games without defeat.

Harper had a hand in all the Aberdeen goals and he scored their third — a left-foot shot that screamed high into the net.

Thistle keep up their title challenge by beating Ayr United 4-1.

On the holiday Monday Celtic put Glasgow's football public on Boxing Day trial, but only 1,313 people turn up to see the Premier side beaten 3-2 by Second Division Queen's Park at Hamp-

den in a challenge match.

Tommy Callaghan, Clydebank's biggest-ever buy asks for a transfer. He was signed for £6,000 but the big mid-field player couldn't command a regular team place.

Callaghan, after a bright career at Celtic Park and earlier with Dunfermline, was a big favourite with the Kilbowie fans in the side which took the First Division runners-up spot last season.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Gate: 22,000 (Aberdeen v. Rangers)
Premier Division Total Attendance: 62,000
Total Goals (3 Divs.): 64
Table-toppers: Rangers
Highest Score: (7) Hearts

Week Ending DECEMBER 31

FIVE SENT-OFF

COMES Christmas — but not the Chappiest of holidays for Championship-chasing Everton. On Boxing Day, the Goodison lads — 22 games unbeaten, and trailing Forest at the top of the table — are walloped 6-2 at home by seemingly ailing Manchester United.

But a real cracker at Nottingham sees Forest and Liverpool, arguably England's two best teams, honourably share the spoils 1-1 in a game which has everything.

The day, though, is spoilt with five players sent-off — including Derby's Charlie George and Bruce Rioch at Q.P.R. — and a total gate well below usual Boxing Day standards.

Next day, there's a goal-happy game at Coventry — where Norwich are finally overcome 5-4 in a ding-dong battle, with a last-minute penalty save to foil a draw — and, at the end of it, Forest have increased their lead to three points again.

The bookies now rate Cloughie's boys as 9-4 favourites for the League title — with Everton (despite that Manchester massacre) and Liverpool next-best at 7-2.

Derby, who held out for a draw with only nine men at Q.P.R. the day before, go down 3-0 at home to Villa — and The Doc rages at sloppy defensive blunders.

On the third footballing day of the holiday, Forest win 2-0 at luckless Newcastle — and stretch their lead at the top back to a healthy five points. And Leicester are still looking for a top scorer with TWO goals — they've scored only nine in the League and all by different players!

Suddenly, homely, unfashionable

Luton are Big News. Four top clubs eye their shrewd manager, "Happy Harry" Haslam; while Coventry are offering £250,000 for Paul Fletcher, and Villa another £155,000 for Steve Buckley. But Luton so far resist bids for one-and-all.

In the New Year Honours, Walter Winterbottom — England's first team manager (1946 to 1962), and latterly respected Director of the Sports Council — becomes a "Sir".

Clough knows how to get full value out of his men. On Wednesday, newly-signed Dave Needham scores a vital goal at Newcastle; on Saturday, he heads another at Bristol City — and, in case you forget, he was signed as a central defender primarily to stop 'em at the other end!

There's another big-scoring game in the Midlands, where Chelsea beat Birmingham 5-4. And Everton recover from their mini-crisis of two successive defeats to beat Arsenal 2-0, and keep second place a point ahead of local rivals Liverpool.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Score: 5 — Chelsea
Total Goals: 120
Hat-tricks: 2 — Langley (Chelsea v. Birmingham); Butler (Huddersfield v. Scunthorpe)
Table-toppers: Div 1, Forest; Div 2, Bolton; Div 3, Wrexham; Div 4, Watford
Highest Gate: 47,039 — Everton v. Arsenal
Total Gate: 549,164
Average Gate: 12,771

BARGAIN BUY MUNRO

CELTIC get the January sales off to an early start. They persuade Wolverhampton Wanderers to part with Scots international defender Frank Munro for £20,000.

Bargain buy Munro wears the number six jersey for his new club at Ayr. But the Somerset outfit lift the points by beating Celtic 2-1. Ayr desperately need the win to get away from the foot of the Premier table.

Rangers appear to be suffering from too much Christmas fare or a pre-New Year hangover. They struggle to find their top-of-the-table form against Hibs at Ibrox. Earlier in the season the Edinburgh side had beaten Rangers. But this time it is a goal-less draw.

Aberdeen can only manage a one-nil win over Clydebank. The Bankies were

without their star striker Mike Larnach who has just been transferred to Newcastle for £100,000.

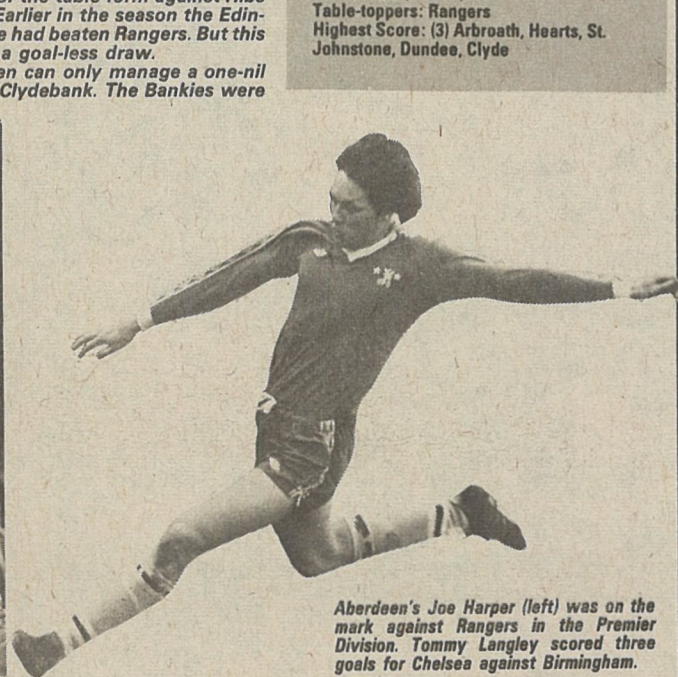
Motherwell's new manager Roger Hynd sees his team beat Partick Thistle in a two-goal second-half burst. Thistle had four good goal chances in the first but the year ended on a dull note for manager Bertie Auld and his team.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

Highest Gate: 25,000 (Rangers v. Hibs)
Premier Division Total Attendance: 58,000
Total Goals (3 Divs.): 38
Table-toppers: Rangers
Highest Score: (3) Arbroath, Hearts, St. Johnstone, Dundee, Clyde



JOE CRAIG
(Celtic)



Aberdeen's Joe Harper (left) was on the mark against Rangers in the Premier Division. Tommy Langley scored three goals for Chelsea against Birmingham.

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In the space of five days last month three events took place that really shook me.

FIRSTLY . . . Scotland, after having all the play against England at Hampden, lost 1-0. It was an impressive display from the Scots in everything but scoring goals.

SECONDLY . . . I was given the news Rangers manager Jock Wallace had resigned.

THIRDLY . . . the most shattering of all! Rangers offered the job of manager to me, an appointment I was proud to accept.

I have read and heard a lot of rumours why Mr Wallace resigned. It's not my job to comment. What went on in the boardroom was none of my business.

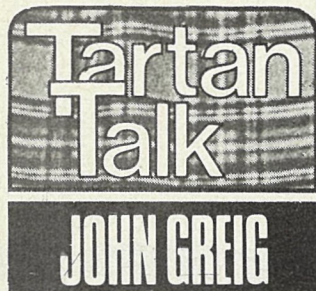
However, I must say Leicester City have got themselves a first-class manager. Jock Wallace will demand all-out effort all of the time from his players. In his eyes players are men, but if they let him down he'll not be slow to hammer them.

He's a winner, there's no doubt about that. His record at Ibrox — two trebles in three seasons, plus

other honours — is superb. I wish him every success down in England.

I have never hidden the fact I've always wanted to be manager of Rangers. Mind you, a lot of people are Rangers mad, but they can't all become the Ibrox boss! What you want and what you get aren't always the same thing . . .

To be honest, it's only now my appointment has sunk in. I was in a daze at first, everything happened so quickly.



It's still hard to accept I'll never play for Rangers again. Even at 35, I felt I could go on for at least another season and I had signed a new one-year contract after leading the Light Blues to The Treble last season.

I may not be playing, but I aim to keep myself as fit as ever with regular runs until pre-season training starts next month. I must prove myself to be fit — mind you, the lads won't be able to give me "stick" now!

I suppose some people will think I'm too inexperienced for the job, comparing me with Davie White. Davie, a personal friend of mine, didn't have the sort of experience I've had as a player . . . at European and international level. I'm confident this will steer me through.

Naturally, I have my own ideas on Rangers' future, although it's still too early to start making predictions. I'll leave the players in

no doubt I'm not "John" any more — I'm "boss" from now.

I know they'll accept this because they're a real bunch of professionals at Ibrox.

At least taking over in the close-season has given me time to prepare, much better than being plunged in the deep-end mid-season.

All I will say is Rangers won everything last season and I will be doing everything within my power to ensure things stay that way.

Anyway, a quick word about Scotland's World Cup-tie against Holland in Mendoza on Sunday (June 11th).

Time hasn't allowed me to see whether or not we've beaten Peru and Iran, but I'm sure the lads won't have let their country down.

The match against the Dutch should be an entertaining affair and give both sides the opportunity to show their skills.

Cheers for now

'MY THREE SHOCKS'



RIGHT . . . John Greig with Jock Wallace, the man he replaced.

ABOVE . . . Celebration time as Greig steps into the hot-seat.

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FOCUS ON JOHN McGOVERN

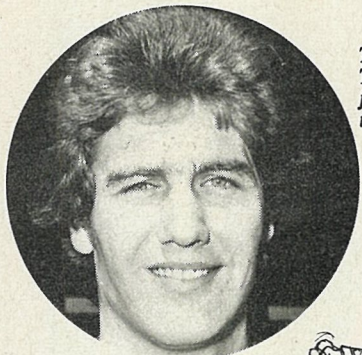
Nottingham Forest

FULL NAME: John Prescott McGovern
BIRTHPLACE: Montrose, Scotland
BIRTHDATE: 28th October, 1949
HEIGHT: 5ft 8in
WEIGHT: 10st 5lb
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Hartlepool, Derby and Leeds
MARRIED: No, but engaged
CAR: Ford Escort
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Franz Beckenbauer
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Glasgow Rangers
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: I've many
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: v. Benfica in the European Cup, while I was with Derby, 1972-73
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning the First Division Championship at Derby and Nottingham Forest
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Juventus in the Semi-Final of the European Cup in 1972-73 while with Derby
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Holland
FAVOURITE FOOD: Mince and tatties
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Pop music, art and the cinema
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Rude people and being injured
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Nature programmes and The Sweeney
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Status Quo and the Rolling Stones
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESSES: John Wayne, Dirk Bogarde, Ursula Andress and Suzannah York
BEST FRIEND: I've many
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Brian Clough and Peter Taylor
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Two Scotland Under-23 caps
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PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win everything
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Unhappy
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? John Wayne



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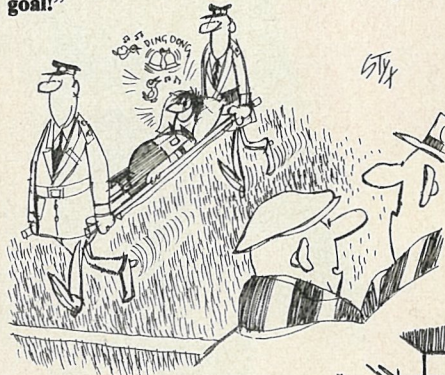
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



This week West Brom goalkeeper **TONY GODDEN** selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Nasty accident — he scored a goal!"

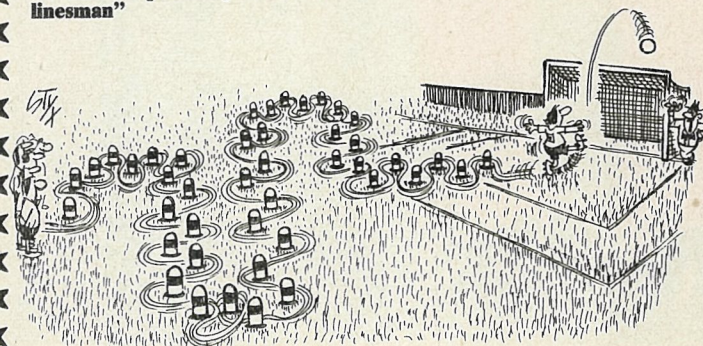


"He is almost unbearable since he found out his great, great grandmother came from Scotland"



"There's a silly sports writer here who reckons you are accident prone"

"I had a punch-up with a linesman"



PAUL MADELEY
Leeds United

SURELY one of the most staggering outcomes of the past season was the relegation of Blackpool to the Third Division for the first time in the club's history.

That the Bloomfield Road club should descend so low is astonishing in itself, but the manner in which they suffered their demise was even more incredible.

Just take a look at the facts:

★ At the start of the season they were fancied to be among the promotion candidates.

★ After drawing their first home game they travelled to Orient and won 4-1 in London with Bob Hatton getting a hat-trick.

★ By the end of September they had lost only twice in the League, and Mick Walsh and Bob Hatton had already scored ten goals between them.

★ That man Hatton hit five more in successive victories over Cardiff and Crystal Palace which lifted the team to fourth spot behind Tottenham.

★ The defence conceded only seven goals in eight games so on November 5th they moved into the top three.

★ Successive home matches in January brought ten goals against Charlton and Blackburn Rovers.

★ Bob Hatton broke a club record by getting hat-tricks in both matches, making four in all and a goals tally of 22 by February 4.

★ By March 11 the team was seventh and had already scored 50 goals. They had only 11 matches to play.

All those facts put together, suggest a successful season even if promotion was just going to be beyond reach, but nobody in their wildest moments could have foreseen what was to happen after March 11.

During a disastrous run-in the Seasiders picked up only a paltry five more points, drawing four games in a row, and losing all the others apart from the penultimate match at Crystal Palace, which ended 2-2.

Final game

Even so, when they went to Brighton for their final League game on April 29, little thought was given to them going down.

All eyes that day were on Brighton who needed to win to stand a chance of pipping Spurs for promotion to the First Division.

Blackpool almost thwarted them, still unaware of their own desperate need for victory, but in the end Bob Hatton's 24th goal of the season wasn't enough and Brighton won 2-1.

That night as Brighton wept at their brave but unavailing bid for glory, Blackpool returned home with their season ended and the table showing them in 16th spot.

Now they just had to wait for all the teams below them to fight it out. Mansfield and Hull were already down.

All Blackpool could do was watch in horror as first Millwall made themselves safe by winning for the sixth successive time, then Cardiff got the point they needed, so did Charlton, and suddenly that left only themselves or Orient for the dreaded drop.

Surely Orient wouldn't win their last game away to Cardiff, where promotion favourites like Bolton,

GLOOM-FILLED BLOOMFIELD ROAD

The sensational story of Blackpool's relegation

Bob Hatton (right) scored 24 goals last season... but it wasn't enough. Charlton (far right, dark shirts) were also in relegation trouble.



Southampton and Brighton had all perished in recent weeks, and only one team had won all season.

But as you know they did and to the disbelief of almost the whole of football Blackpool had slithered down the entire ladder to find themselves in the Third Division next season.

Just how extraordinarily tight that situation at the bottom of the Second Division was can be seen from the fact Orient's victory at Cardiff lifted them to 14th slot!

One more point and Blackpool would have been safe. It's doubtful if any club has ever been relegated to the Third Division with 37 points, but that's scant consolation to Blackpool.

Stanley Matthews, Stan Mortensen, Harry Johnston, Jimmy Armfield and all the other great men who have given Blackpool such an illustrious name, must be cringing at the thought of those famous tangerine shirts in the Third.

So what went wrong? Well there must be many reasons, including the sales of players like George Wood and Paul Hart, the split with Allan Brown when the side was reasonably well placed, the almost permanent doubt about Mick Walsh's future with the club, and general unrest in the boardroom.

It's a sad story but perhaps in the long run it won't prove a bad thing Blackpool have been taken down a peg.

We hope new manager Bob Stokoe, in his second spell at the club, can take them back to the top flight before too long. Preston and Blackburn, two Lancashire clubs with similarly great tradition, appear to be fighting back after their recent reverses, maybe Blackpool can too.

ALL THE SCOTTISH FOR 1977-78

KEY:—
L. — LEAGUE
L.C. — LEAGUE CUP
S.C. — SCOTTISH CUP

PREMIER DIV.

ABERDEEN				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
HARPER	17	6	4	27
JARVIE	12	2	2	16
FLEMING	5	4	4	13
DAVIDSON	8	2	2	12
McMASTER	4	3	1	8
ARCHIBALD	5	0	0	5
ROBB	5	0	0	5
SULLIVAN	3	0	0	3
GIBSON	3	0	0	3
MILLER	2	0	0	2
GARNER	1	0	0	1
STRACHAN	1	0	0	1
SCANLON	1	0	0	1
SHIRRA	0	1	0	1
SMITH	0	1	0	1
RITCHIE	0	0	1	1

AYR UTD				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
McCALL	12	0	0	12
MASTERTON	6	1	0	7
CRAMOND	4	3	0	7
McLAUGHLIN	5	0	0	5
McCULLOCH	2	0	0	2
PHILLIPS	2	0	0	2
CHRISTIE	1	0	0	1
McCUTCHEON	1	0	0	1
HYSLOP	1	0	0	1
McLELLAND	1	0	0	1
McALLISTER	1	0	0	1

CELTIC				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
CRAIG	8	4	0	12
EDVALDSSON	10	2	0	12
McADAM	8	0	2	10
GLAVIN	9	0	0	9
MACDONALD	7	0	2	9
McCLUSKEY	5	1	3	9
BURNS	3	1	1	5
DOYLE	2	2	0	4
WILSON	1	2	0	3
LYNCH	3	0	0	3
AITKEN	2	1	0	3
CONROY	2	0	0	2

Plus four own-goals — two in the League and two in the League Cup.

CLYDEBANK				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
McCOLL	3	3	0	6
LARNACH	4	1	0	5
McCORMICK	5	0	0	5
McCALLAN	2	1	0	3
COLGAN	2	0	0	2
HOUSTON	1	1	0	2
HAY	1	0	0	1
O'BRIEN	1	0	0	1
MURRAY	1	0	0	1
LUMSDEN	1	0	0	1
GERVAISE	1	0	0	1
MILLER	1	0	0	1
McLAUGHLIN	0	1	0	1
McNAUGHTON	0	1	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League Cup.

DUNDEE UTD.

L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
KIRKWOOD	4	7	0	11
FLEMING	9	0	1	10
WALLACE	6	3	0	9
HEGARTY	4	3	2	9
STURROCK	3	3	1	7
BOURKE	5	0	1	6
ADDISON	3	0	3	6
HOLT	3	1	0	4
PAYNE	1	0	1	2
DODDS	1	1	0	2
ROLLAND	1	0	0	1
STEWART	1	0	0	1
ROBINSON	0	1	0	1
NAREY	0	1	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

STEWART	1	0	0	1
PATERSON	1	0	0	1

Plus two own-goals in League.

MOTHERWELL

L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
DAVIDSON	8	2	0	10
O'ROURKE	5	0	2	7
PETTIGREW	7	0	0	7
MARINELLO	5	0	2	7
STEVENS	6	0	0	6
McADAM	3	0	0	3
PURDIE	3	0	0	3
McLAREN	2	0	1	3
CLINGING	3	0	0	3
J. MILLER	1	0	0	1
O'NEILL	1	0	0	1
P. MILLAR	1	0	0	1

PARTICK THISTLE

L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
SOMNER	15	0	2	17
O'HARA	10	0	0	10
MELROSE	4	0	4	8
HOUSTON	7	0	0	7
GIBSON	4	0	0	4
McADAM	3	0	0	3
McQUADE	1	0	2	3
LOVE	2	0	0	2
FRAME	2	0	0	2
CRAIG	2	0	0	2
ANDERSON	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

FIRST DIV.

AIRDRIE				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
CAIRNEY	22	0	0	22
CLARK	6	0	0	6
KERR	2	1	0	3
JONQUIN	2	0	1	3
McVEIGH	3	0	0	3
WILSON	2	0	0	2
McCANN	2	0	0	2
WALKER	2	0	0	2
BLACK	2	0	0	2
MARCH	2	0	0	2
REID	1	0	1	2
McGUIRE	1	0	0	1

Plus two own-goals in League

ALLOA				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
MORRISON	6	1	1	8
RUSSELL	5	2	0	7
MILLAR	6	0	0	6
WILSON	6	0	0	6
MUIR	4	0	0	4
IRVINE	4	0	0	4
FORREST	2	1	0	3
ALEXANDER	2	0	0	2
FAIRLEY	1	1	0	2
WALLACE	2	0	0	2
LIDDELL	2	0	0	2
WILKINSON	1	0	0	1
McGARRY	1	0	0	1
STEEL	1	0	0	1
CARBERRY	0	0	1	1
McCANN	0	0	1	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

ARBROATH				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
BONE	8	3	0	11
FLETCHER	9	0	0	9
KIDD	7	0	0	7
CARGILL	4	1	0	5
YULE	4	0	0	4
CARSON	3	0	0	3
MITCHELL	1	1	0	2
DODDS	1	0	0	1
McKENZIE	1	0	0	1
FETTES	1	0	0	1

SINCLAIR	1	0	0	1
WELLS	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

DUMBARTON				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
J. WHITEFORD	16	1	1	18
D. WHITEFORD	14	0	1	15
GALLACHER	10	0	1	11
MUIR	5	1	0	6
BROWN	6	0	0	6
FYFE	4	0	2	6
BOURKE	3	1	0	4
McLEOD	1	0	2	3
McNEILL	2	0	0	2
BLAIR	2	0	0	2
McCLUSKEY	1	1	0	2
GOVAN	1	0	0	1

DUNDEE				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
PIRIE	32	3	0	35
WILLIAMSON	17	0	0	17
SINCLAIR	13	2	0	15
REDFORD	10	0	0	10
HUTCHINSON	3	1	0	4
SCOTT	4	0	0	4
McKINNON	3	0	0	3
McDOUGALL	1	2	0	3
SHIRRA	2	0	0	2
McGEACHIE	2	0	0	2



Billy Pirie (Dundee)

GLENNIE	1	0	0	1
STRACHAN	0	1	0	1
SCHAEGLER	0	0	1	1
JOHNSTONE	1	0	0	1
SIMPSON	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

EAST FIFE				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
MACKIE	10	0	0	10
HEGARTY	6	0	0	6
YOUNG	5	0	0	5
SMITH	3	0	0	3
GILLIES	3	0	0	3
HUSKIE	3	0	0	3
METHVEN	2	0	0	2
GEORGE	1	0	0	1
MORRIS	1	0	0	1
McIVOR	1	0	0	1

Plus four own-goals in League.

HAMILTON				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
McGROGAN	17	2	0	19
R. GRAHAM	9	1	0	10
McMANUS	5	2	1	8
LOWE	8	0	0	8
FAIRLIE	6	2	0	8
HOWIE	4	0	0	4
GORMLEY	1	0	0	1
E. GRAHAM	1	0	0	1
McDOWELL	1	0	0	1
WRIGHT	1	0	0	1
FREW	0	1	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League Cup.

HEARTS				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
GIBSON	20	2	1	23
BUSBY	15	3	1	19
BANNON	13	3	1	17
PARK	6	2	1	9
ROBERTSON	6	0	0	6
SHAW	3	1	0	4
I. SMITH	2	0	0	2
PRENTICE	2	0	0	2
FRASER	2	0	0	2
TIERNY	2	0	0	2
O'HARA	1	0	0	1

JEFFERIES	1	0	0	1
McNICOLL	1	0	0	1

Plus three own-goals in League.

KILMARNOCK				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
McDOWELL	13	0	2	15
MAXWELL	9	0	1	10
McCULLOCH	8	0	1	9
STEIN	8	0	0	8
DOCHERTY	4	0	0	4
PROVAN	3	0	0	3
MURDOCH	2	0	0	2
JARDINE	2	0	0	2
ARKINSON	1	0	0	1
McGILLIVRAY	1	0	0	1
ROBERTSON	1	0	0	1
FALLIS	0	1	0	1

MONTROSE				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
LIVINGSTONE	10	0	1	11
ROBB	9	0	1	10
DAUN	7	0	0	7
KYLES	5	0	0	5
BARR	5	0	0	5
LOW	3	1	0	4
STREET	3	0	0	3
MILLER	3	0	0	3
McINTOSH	3	0	0	3
BROWN	2	0	0	2
STEWART	2	0	0	2
MARKLAND	2	0	0	2
WALKER	1	0	0	1
D'ARCY	0	0	1	1

MORTON				
L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL	
RITCHIE	19	2	4	25
GOLDTHORP	20	1	1	22
McGHEE	17	1	0	18
ANDERSON	9	0	0	9
RUSSELL	8	0	0	8
McNEILL	2	0	1	3
BROWN	3	0	0	3
THOMAS	2	0	1	3
HUTCHINSON	1	1	0	2
HAYES	2	0	0	2

Plus two own-goals in League.

GOALSCORERS

(Including League, League Cup and Scottish Cup)

RANGERS

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
JOHNSTONE	25	6	6	37
SMITH	20	6	0	26
COOPER	6	1	1	8
PARLANE	5	3	0	8
MACDONALD	3	2	2	7
JACKSON	3	1	2	6
JARDINE	5	1	0	6
MILLER	2	3	0	5
GREIG	2	1	1	4
RUSSELL	3	0	0	3
McLEAN	1	1	0	2
HAMILTON	0	0	1	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

ST. MIRREN

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
McGARVEY	18	2	0	20
STARK	6	1	0	7
REID	5	1	0	6
HYSLOP	4	2	0	6
ABERCROMBIE	3	0	0	3
MUNRO	3	0	0	3
BONE	3	0	0	3
TORRANCE	1	0	1	2
FITZPATRICK	2	0	0	2
COPLAND	2	0	0	2
DOCHERTY	1	0	0	1
RICHARDSON	1	0	0	1
LEONARD	1	0	0	1
BELL	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
P. DICKSON	6	4	0	10
BRYCE	9	0	1	10
REID	6	3	0	9
McLAREN	5	0	1	6
HOOD	4	0	1	5
G. DICKSON	1	3	1	5
O'HARA	2	2	0	4
DEMPSTER	2	2	0	4
McCHESNEY	3	0	0	3
O'NEILL	1	1	0	2
FERRIE	2	0	0	2
BOYD	1	0	0	1
MONRO	1	0	0	1
CLARK	1	0	0	1
COUGHLIN	0	0	1	1

Plus one own-goal in League.

STIRLING ALB.

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
STEELE	13	0	1	14
McPHEE	9	1	2	12
BROWNING	11	0	0	11
CLARK	7	1	0	8
THOMPSON	5	0	0	5
DUFFIN	3	0	0	3
KENNEDY	2	0	0	2
ARMSTRONG	2	0	0	2
GRAY	1	1	0	2
BROWN	1	0	0	1
NICOL	1	0	0	1
STEADMAN	1	0	0	1

Plus four own-goals in League.

ST. JOHNSTONE

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
O'CONNOR	19	0	1	20
BROGAN	14	1	0	15
THOMPSON	7	0	0	7
PELOSI	4	0	0	4
LAWSON	3	0	0	3
MACKAY	1	0	0	1
TAYLOR	1	0	0	1
ROSS	1	0	0	1
WRIGHT	1	0	0	1
SALISBURY	1	0	0	1

SECOND DIV.

ALBION ROVERS

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
McLEAN	23	0	0	23
FRANCHETTI	20	0	0	20
SERMANI	6	1	0	7
LOUGHLIN	6	0	0	6
McCABE	3	0	1	4
MULDOON	3	0	0	3
HILL	3	0	0	3
SHIELDS	1	0	0	1
CLELAND	1	0	0	1
DOCHERTY	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League

BERWICK

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
LAING	15	1	3	19
TAIT	14	0	0	14
WIGHT	8	0	4	12
I. SMITH	7	0	4	11
McPHEE	8	0	0	8
MOYES	4	0	1	5
BENNETT	3	0	0	3
McDOWALL	2	0	0	2
BARROWMAN	1	0	0	1
McLAUGHLIN	1	0	0	1
McLEOD	1	0	0	1
WHEATLEY	1	0	0	1
D. SMITH	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League

BRECHIN

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
MORTON	9	1	0	10
ROBB	7	0	1	8
GILLESPIE	8	0	0	8
I. CAMPBELL	5	0	0	5
BROWN	5	0	0	5
FLYNN	3	1	0	4
JACK	2	0	0	2
STEWART	1	0	1	2
WEIR	1	0	0	1
SELLARS	1	0	0	1
REID	1	0	0	1
LYLE	1	0	0	1
SIME	0	0	1	1

Plus one own-goal in League

CLYDE

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
HOOD	21	0	0	21
WARD	15	0	0	15
AHERN	7	0	0	7
MARSHALL	6	1	0	7
O'NEILL	6	0	0	6
SWEENEY	3	0	0	3
McCABE	3	0	0	3
GRANT	2	0	0	2
BOYD	2	0	0	2
ARCHIBALD	2	0	0	2
BROGAN	2	0	0	2
FERRIS	1	0	0	1
FINLAYSON	1	0	0	1
SINCLAIR	1	0	0	1

COWDENBEATH

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
STEELE	21	0	1	22
HARLEY	14	0	2	16
HUNTER	10	0	0	10
MARSHALL	8	0	1	9
PURDIE	5	0	2	7
MARKEY	4	0	0	4
CAITHNESS	3	0	1	4
GRAHAM	3	0	0	3
AITKEN	2	0	0	2
WILSON	2	0	0	2
FAIR	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal in League

DUNFERMLINE

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
MORRISON	11	6	0	17
MULLIN	7	1	0	8
GEORGESON	7	0	1	8

LEONARD	8	0	0	8
BORTHWICK	4	1	1	6
I. HALL	5	0	0	5
DONNELLY	4	0	0	4
SALTON	3	0	0	3
ROBERTSON	3	0	0	3
DICKSON	3	0	0	3
MEAKIN	3	0	0	3
BOWIE	2	0	0	2
SCOTT	1	0	0	1
THOMSON	1	0	0	1
MERCER	1	0	0	1
WATSON	0	0	1	1

Plus one own-goal in League

EAST STIRLING

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
DOCHERTY	12	0	0	12
ASHWOOD	8	0	1	9
McCULLY	7	0	0	7
SIMPSON	4	0	0	4
COCHRANE	4	0	0	4
STIRLING	3	0	0	3
BENNETT	2	0	0	2
RENWICK	2	0	0	2
DONNELLY	2	0	0	2
SOUTAR	1	0	0	1
FITZPATRICK	1	0	0	1
LAMONT	1	0	0	1
HOTCHKISS	1	0	0	1

Plus two own-goals and four Trialist's goals in League

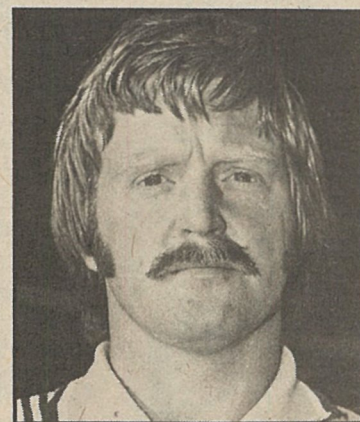
FALKIRK

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
McROBERTS	13	1	0	14
LEETON	10	1	0	11
KINNEAR	10	0	0	10
HAY	3	0	0	3
WILSON	3	0	0	3
PERRY	3	0	0	3
SOUTAR	2	0	0	2
McCALLAN	2	0	0	2
WILLIAMSON	1	0	0	1
CLOUGHERTY	1	0	0	1
DOCHERTY	1	0	0	1

Plus two own-goals in League

FORFAR

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
RAE	11	6	0	17
HALL	8	2	0	10
GAVINE	6	1	0	7
GALLAGHER	7	0	0	7
RANKIN	4	2	0	6
BRASH	5	0	1	6
GRAHAM	4	0	0	4
PAYNE	3	1	0	4
KNOX	3	1	0	4
BROWN	3	1	0	4
CASSIDY	1	0	0	1
WHITE	1	0	0	1
SMITH	1	0	0	1



Alex Rae (Forfar Athletic)

CLARK	1	0	0	1
MANGAN	1	0	0	1
HENDERSON	1	0	0	1
HENRY	1	0	0	1

MEADOWBANK

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
J. HANCOCK	8	1	1	10
DOWNIE	7	0	0	7
SMYTH	4	0	3	7
DAVIDSON	5	0	0	5
ADAIR	5	0	0	5
S. HANCOCK	4	0	0	4
WIGHT	2	1	0	3
FOTHERINGHAM	2	0	0	2
McKENZIE	2	0	0	2
O'ROURKE	2	0	0	2
WILLIAMSON	1	0	0	1
CATHCART	1	0	0	1

QUEEN'S PARK

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
DONNELLY	8	0	0	8
WILKIE	5	0	1	6
BALLANTYNE	6	0	0	6
NICHOLSON	6	0	0	6
GLAVIN	4	0	1	5
MACKIN	2	1	2	5
WOOD	5	0	0	5
HORN	4	0	1	5
ROONEY	3	0	0	3
PATON	2	0	0	2
R. DICKSON	2	0	0	2
MacDONALD	1	0	0	1
McALOON	1	0	0	1
EDGAR	1	0	0	1

Plus two own-goals in League

RAITH ROVERS

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
DUNCAN	11	0	0	11
HARROW	9	0	1	10
WALLACE	9	0	0	9
PETTIE	6	0	0	6
FORREST	5	0	0	5
URQUHART	4	0	0	4
HISLOP	4	0	0	4
CANDLISH	4	0	0	4
HUNTER	3	0	0	3
TAYLOR	2	1	0	3
MURRAY	3	0	0	3
HOUSTON	1	0	0	1
THOMSON	1	0	0	1
McDONOUGH	1	0	0	1

STENHOUSEMUIR

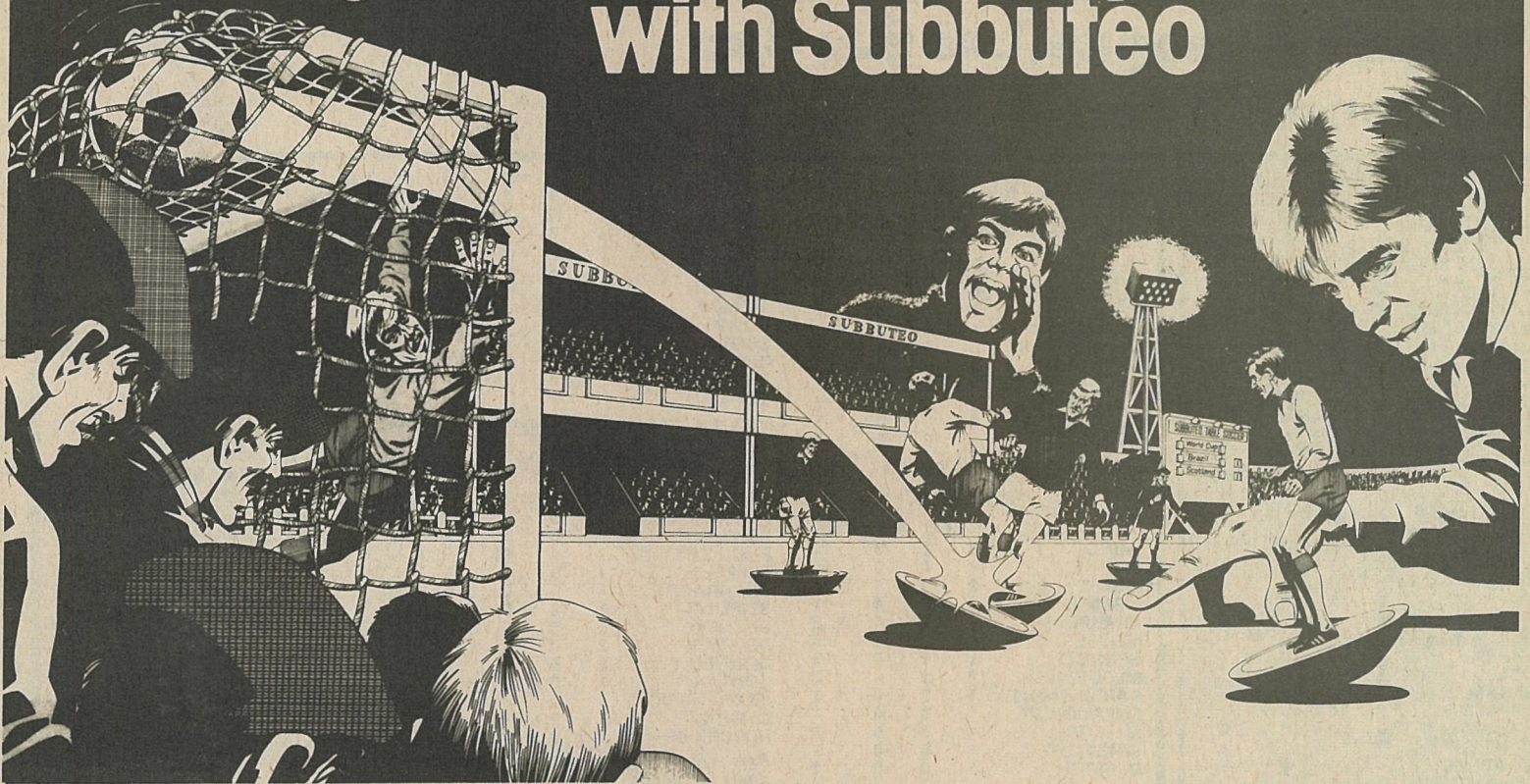
	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
WILSON	13	0	0	13
GIBB	12	0	0	12
GORDON	5	0	0	5
WIGHT	2	0	0	2
McCULLIE	2	0	0	2
HALLIDAY	1	0	0	1
SCOTT	1	0	0	1
CASKIE	1	0	0	1
MARKIE	1	0	0	1
FEENEY	1	0	0	1
STONE	1	0	0	1

Plus one own-goal and one Trialist goal in League

STRANRAER

	L	L.C.	S.C.	TOTAL
FRYE	27	5	0	32
FERGUSON	8	0	0	8
WALKER	7	0	0	7
McCUTCHEON	3	0	0	3
MILLS	3	0	0	3
CAMERON	2	0	0	2
STEEN	2	0	0	2
FLEMING	1	0	0	1
MILLIGAN	1	0	0	1
MUIR	0	1	0	1

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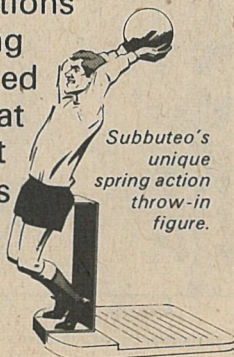
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LAST Christmas Burnley seemed destined for their first ever spell in Division Three. There could be no miracle escape like the season before, when they avoided the big drop by two points, or so it seemed.

In fact, it was said the Turf Moor outfit would go down with the lowest number of points ever accumulated by any club.

In the end they finished the season in 11th spot, so how did the transformation take place?

"Possibly the change in fortunes came when we played Bolton Wanderers on January 2nd," says joker in the pack and striker, Paul Fletcher.

"We had a meeting before the game and everybody had their say about what they thought was going wrong. We felt most of the other teams were catching us cold in the opening ten or 15 minutes.

"So we decided to go out and try to turn the tables, to open with a flurry and to put the other team under pressure early on. We did this at Bolton and it came off. We scored in the first few minutes; then we got another soon after the break and we ended up winning 2-1.

"Then came a run of 11 games in which we only lost once. This was

through sheer chasing about in the first 20 minutes. Whether it was this new opening attitude that made the difference, well, I don't know, but it certainly put us on the winning path.

"From my point of view I had a strange beginning to the season. I missed the first seven matches. I did all the pre-season training, then just before the first match I twisted my knee. Peter Noble was injured and I was told I would be the captain of the side. Unfortunately I was sidelined as well.

"By the time I got into the team we were well adrift at the foot of the table. After 11 games we had three points, which isn't an awful lot!

"We did have bad luck and I know it's easy to make that an excuse, but we did think it would possibly balance itself out. Fortunately it did — there have been penalties and teams scoring own-goals — but it was getting to the stage when it looked as though it might be too late.

"It was a good game all round for us at Bolton. It was amazing really, because at Christmas we looked at the fixtures and we thought we might beat Blackburn at home and we might beat Sunderland, but we felt there was no

chance at Burnden Park. The games we thought we would win we lost and the ones we thought we would lose we won, but this is football.

"Brian Flynn was sold a quarter of the way through the season and in came Brian Hall and Steve Kindon.

"This was probably a turning point as well. I think when new players arrive at a club, not only do they play well, but they lift everybody else. There are extra players and everybody is fighting for a place. It creates a good atmosphere.

"I was playing up-front more or less on my own until Steve Kindon came; now we've a link-up. We tend to complement each other. He's aggressive and he'll chase anything. I just tend to flick the ball on to him. We've scored quite a few goals together. I've made some for him and he's made some for me. He was the top goalscorer.

"When Steve came, that's when we started to pick up points away from home. He's a fantastic player and he fitted really well into the side.

"He must be regarded as a bargain buy last season. He's proved his worth to Burnley and I would think he should easily hold his

place in any First Division team.

"We didn't have a bad League Cup run. We beat Chester 2-1 and Norwich 3-1 and were eventually knocked out at home to Ipswich.

"We started with a 1-0 lead and I scored the goal; then we were pipped 2-1. We played quite well on the night, but that was at a time when things in general were not going for us; although we were perhaps the better side, we came off the pitch losing.

"Manager Harry Potts has always had confidence in us. Even when we were six points adrift he would say, 'Keep plugging away'. He gave us this added confidence. He believed we could escape relegation and we've proved him right. He didn't change anything. He didn't try to run the legs off us in training as a punishment.

"Once again Peter Noble has been the driving force of the side. He's got the enthusiasm of an 18-year-old and it's great to have someone like him. Without his inspiration I'm sure we would have been relegated."

What's Paul's prediction for Burnley next season? "It's very hard to say. Some good sides have come down and some great sides have been promoted. For the last three years we've done nothing except struggle.

"We just managed to avoid relegation two seasons on the trot and the term before we dropped from the First Division. I think we've got to aim for consolidation at the beginning. If we get halfway through the season and find we're safe, then we can start pushing for something."

'EARLY PRESSURE SAVED BURNLEY'

says striker PAUL FLETCHER



Burnley under pressure during their 3-0 defeat at Tottenham.

TERRY McDERMOTT HAS SMASHED THAT WEMBLEY JINX

EVERYBODY has heard the saying "third time lucky" — but for Liverpool's Terry McDermott it was a case of double that number in relation to his trips to Wembley. It was only on his sixth appearance at the stadium he succeeded in finishing on the winning side.

"I had played there on five previous occasions without much luck," says Terry.

"First, there was my game in Newcastle's colours against Liverpool in the 1974 F.A. Cup Final. Newcastle lost 3-0, and after that I had two appearances with Liverpool against Manchester United in an F.A. Cup Final which we lost and the Charity Shield which we drew.

"Not forgetting a drawn game for England against Switzerland, and this year's drawn League Cup Final with Nottingham Forest.

One-sided

"So it's not surprising I was beginning to think there was some sort of jinx on me. I began to worry about whether I would ever be in a team that would be out in front at the end of 90 minutes at Wembley, especially when the match against Forest there was the most one-sided I'd ever played in — and we still hadn't managed to win.

"Then came the meeting with Bruges, and at the end of it, our manager Bob Paisley couldn't resist making a joke. He told me he had thought about pulling me off ten minutes before the finish, just to make sure my jinx wouldn't affect Liverpool."

But for McDermott, there is no jesting when he talks about the influence manager Paisley has had on his game since the midfield man joined the Anfield club from Newcastle United in 1974.

Says Terry: "When I joined Liverpool it took me some time to settle. I thought I was putting everything into my game, but things were still not coming off for

me, no matter what I did.

"Then Bob Paisley told me I could do more, make a bigger contribution to the game — and at first it took a while for me to accept this. But fortunately his advice got through to me, and from that time on I improved. I realised how right he had been in his judgment.

"Previously, I had been inclined to play wide on the right and was not involved as much in midfield as I'd been with Newcastle. But, looking back, I'm aware I was a little over-awed at joining Liverpool. I knew they were a great side and hesitated about getting into the play at certain times — I almost felt as though I were intruding, among players who had been collecting honours for years.

"Liverpool were the only team I knew capable of attracting me when I was with Newcastle. I loved my spell on Tyneside, and the United fans are tremendous — I rank them along with Liverpool and Manchester United supporters for their loyalty and enthusiasm, and Liverpool are the only side I'd have left Newcastle for.

"Because at Anfield, the feeling at the start of every season is we are going to win something. The confidence is there, among everybody, that at the end of the term there will be another trophy on the sideboard."

But Terry confesses that during the 1977-78 season, there was a brief period when there was almost a feeling of pessimism at Anfield.

"Our chances of winning the League were slim, we were out of the F.A. Cup, had lost the League Cup Final, and it began to look bleak.

"Then came the European Cup Final win which put us back on top of the world. And now I can only think that it would be nice if we could do the same again next year — that, and winning back my place in the England side."



Liverpool's Terry McDermott (left) with the European Cup after their 1-0 win against Bruges at Wembley last month.

'LIVERPOOL

BY THE high standards we have set ourselves, Liverpool's domestic season — in the League, League Cup and F.A. Cup — was something of a disappointment.

For long spells we played below standard, not putting our game together.

At one stage we lay seven points behind our Merseyside rivals, The Blues of Everton, with the dire prospect of ending the season below them in the League, something that hasn't happened since 1970, looming ahead of us.

Only a tremendous run, when we picked up 20 points out of a possible 22, saw us overhaul Everton and ease ourselves into the runners-up spot, behind Nottingham Forest.

At no time, though, did we really

from Celtic, struck fine form by scoring in six of the games. He's a very different type of player from Kevin: more direct, confining himself almost entirely to the centre of the field, but I can't imagine a better replacement for Kevin. He settled in amazingly well.

It was a goal from Kenny that completed our 6-0 rout of Kevin's Hamburgers in the second-leg of the Super Cup Final, at Anfield in early December, to allow us a 7-1 win on aggregate.

Our Kopites gave Kevin a rousing reception, but it was the other "K" who shone that glorious night.

Our other big signing, Graeme Souness from Middlesbrough, has established such a great understanding with Terry McDermott and



'We gave The Hammers the coup de grace'

get close enough to Brian Clough's men to put them under the sort of high pressure that might have caused them to crack.

Forest have had a dream-like season, finishing seven points clear of our 57, which coincidentally was enough to earn us the previous Championship.

Two bad defeats in the space of five days in March was a big setback to our League hopes. We should have beaten Chelsea, at Stamford Bridge, in atonement for allowing them to deal us an unprecedented knockout in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup, but instead we became over-confident and over-adventurous after opening the scoring with a penalty conversion, and the London Blues took advantage and won 3-1. We then allowed Derby to beat us 4-2 at the Baseball Ground.

Fears by some critics we would suffer from the loss of Kevin Keegan, signed by Hamburger SV for £480,000 — a record here and in West Germany — were dispelled when we began the season with a promising 11 points from seven games.

Kenny Dalglish, a £440,000 buy

Ray Kennedy, that a well-respected football-writer classes our midfield trio as "the best in Europe".

Another bonus for Graeme was being selected by Scotland manager Ally MacLeod for his 22-man squad for the World Cup Finals, an honour he probably wouldn't have received if he'd stayed at Boro.

Graeme unfortunately was ineligible to play for The Reds in the League Cup competition.

For the first time ever Liverpool progressed beyond the Fifth Round, actually reaching the Final. Like every Finalist we had our share of Cup luck, being drawn at home in every round, apart from the Quarter-Final against Wrexham. The Semi-Final, of course, was played on a home and away basis, against Arsenal, who went on to become F.A. Cup Finalists.

The League Cup Final was a disappointment. We failed to score at Wembley, and in the replay at Old Trafford, and Forest took the Cup with a controversial penalty.

As a result of comments he made about the referee's decision, our Phil Thompson, who brought down John O'Hare, was fined for bringing the game into disrepute.

PLAYED BELOW STANDARD...'

'Forest scored two goals in four meetings against us'

RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer

John Robertson beats Ray to score the only and winning goal in last term's League Cup Final replay at Old Trafford.

That Cup-winner was only the second goal Forest scored against us in four meetings. For our League games ended 1-1 at Forest and 0-0 at Anfield, although they were hard-fought.

Our feelings of injustice over losing the League Cup in no way diminished our respect for Forest, who have stormed through their League programme without faltering once, a near-incredible feat. I can't recall previous Champions who haven't had a sticky patch at some time in the season.

Their achievement is even more remarkable when you consider the fact they only just scraped into the First Division in third promotion place.

Brian Clough, ably advised by his right-hand man, Peter Taylor, bought wisely, bringing Peter Shilton from Stoke, Dave Needham from Q.P.R., Archie Gemmill from Derby and Kenny Burns from Birmingham.

Buying Kenny, with a reputation for an explosive temper which had earned him a "bad boy" tag, was a master-stroke. Clough and Taylor worked such a remarkable transformation on him he became Forest's outstanding player and was voted "Footballer of the Year" by the writers.

Next season will be the big test for Forest. They will find, as we have done, that every game will be like a Cup Final, with the opposition often playing above themselves in their desire to beat them.

One consolation for them is Notts County are not in the First, which spares them the pressure of local derby games.

Ours against Everton are always high-tension affairs with everyone so desperate not to make a mistake, particularly in defence, that few goals are scored.

At Anfield, in late October, we

drew 0-0, but beat The Blues 1-0 at Goodison Park with a goal from Dave Johnson, who ironically is one of their former players.

That was, unfortunately for Dave, his last game as a leg injury needed an operation. His other most memorable, and vital, goal he scored against Borussia Monchengladbach in Dusseldorf in the first-leg of the European Cup Semi-Final.

Forest will have their first taste of playing in the Continent's top competition next season, the European Cup — they played in the Fairs Cup, now renamed the U.E.F.A. Cup, in 1962 and 1968 — and I'm sure they'll acquit themselves well.

But I'm notoriously bad at making predictions that come true. I expected Aston Villa to challenge strongly for honours last term, yet they struggled in the League and went out early in both Cups. However, they did reach the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup, staging a remarkable comeback against Barcelona at Villa Park, pulling back two goals in the final minutes to go to Spain drawing 2-2, only to lose to the Johan Cruyff-inspired opposition by 2-1 and 4-3 on aggregate.

Villa just failed to finish high enough in the League table to qualify for the competition next season, a big disappointment to their players and fans.

With such tremendous potential support, it will be good for the game if Villa pick up next season. I suspect manager Ron Saunders is planning to make bids for new players to revitalise his Villans.

A big tragedy is the sudden decline of Newcastle and their relegation to the Second Division.

They also can draw huge crowds, but such was the disenchantment of

their fans that their last League gate was around a mere 7,000.

A contrast to the 34,560 who watched them lose 3-1 at St. James' Park to eventual Finalists Bastia in the Second Round of the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Now the North-East, once a hot-bed of soccer interest, has only one club, Boro, in the First Division.

Frank McLintock, who had won almost everything in the game as a player, encountered all the problems of management at Leicester and was unable to prevent them from making the dreaded drop.

A lot of rebuilding is necessary. I can't see them making a rapid return to the top flight.

West Ham, who failed to pull off their customary Houdini act and landed in the third relegation spot, also need strengthening. If they get the right players, then it's possible for them to emulate Manchester United and Spurs, two clubs who bounced back at the first attempt.

It was sad Liverpool were the ones to administer what turned out to be the coup de grace, beating The Hammers convincingly by 2-0 at Upton Park in their final League fixture.

How lucky I am Liverpool's battles are for honours and not to hang on to a First Division place or gain promotion.

Next season we will again be involved in competing for the three domestic trophies, and in trying to win the European Cup for the third successive season.

As usual, we'll begin by aiming to win every single one of them.

Take care —

Ray Clemence



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S quiz time

1. The first European Championship game was played recently when Denmark met the Republic of Ireland in Copenhagen. (a) What was the result and (b) which one of the Arsenal contingent of Eire players dropped out on the eve of the game through damaged ligaments in his right ankle?

2. On the same evening England entertained World Cup Finalists Hungary at Wembley. (a) Who played in goal for Ron Greenwood's men, (b) what was the half-time score and (c) who skippered Hungary?

3. Luton Town's young defender Paul Futcher was recently transferred for over £300,000 to which First Division club?

4. One player who made the journey from Scotland to England recently was Gordon Boyd when he left Glasgow Rangers and signed for Fulham, Orient or Millwall on a free transfer?

5. Sheffield United have had eight managers since the last War. Ted

Davison, Reg Freeman, Joe Mercer, John Harris (twice), Arthur Rowley, Ken Furphy and Harry Haslam are seven ... can you name the other one?

6. True or false? Second Division Wrexham were formed in 1873 and are the oldest League club in Wales?

7. During his fine career, David Webb has played for Chelsea, Orient, Leicester City, Queens Park Rangers and Southampton ... but not in that order. Can you rearrange them correctly?

8. The following players were transferred last season. Can you select the correct month in which they moved? (a) Phil Boersma (Middlesbrough to Luton in August, September or October), (b) Brian Flynn (Burnley to Leeds in September, October or November), and (c) Brendan O'Callaghan (Doncaster Rovers to Stoke City in January, February or March).

9. Which of these three clubs — Rochdale, Southport or York City

— had a home attendance of less than 1,000 spectators last season?

10. Mike Channon (Southampton), Billy Jennings (Watford), Duncan McKenzie (Nottingham Forest) and Brian Yeo (Gillingham) finished their Division's leading goal-scorers at the end of the 1973-74 season. Who finished top in the (a) First, (b) Second, (c) Third and (d) Fourth?



11. Chelsea's Steve Finnieston (above) was recently linked with a move to Sheffield United or Wednesday?

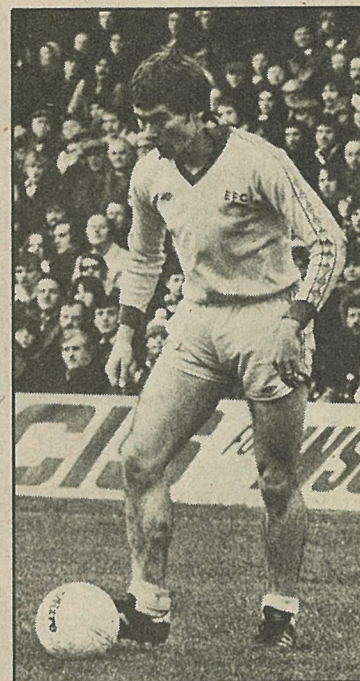
12. Norwich City coach Terry Medwin recently resigned to become assistant-manager with which Third Division club?

13. Can you identify the trophy on the left?



14. Do you know the Christian names of these defenders ... (a) --- Forsyth (Rangers), (b) --- Kennedy (Aberdeen), (c) --- Sneddon (Celtic)?

15. Everton's Martin Dobson and Dave Thomas (below) were once team-mates at another club ... which?



ANSWERS:

1. (a) 3-3, (b) Liam Brady, 2. (a) Peter Shilton, (b) 3-0 to England, (c) Fazekas, 3. Man. City, 4. Fulham, 5. Jimmy Sirrel, 6. True, 7. Orient, Southampton, Chelsea, Q.P.R. and Leicester, 8. (a) August, (b) November, (c) March, 9. Southampton, 10. (a) Channon, (b) McKenzie, (c) Jennings, (d) Yeo, 11. Sheffield United, 12. Swansea City, 13. Scott, 14. (a) Tom, (b) Stuart, (c) Alan, 15. Burnley.

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AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRIA/WAC	36	23	10	3	77	34	56
Rapid Wien	36	16	10	10	76	43	42
SSW Innsbruck	36	15	9	12	49	34	39
Sturm Graz	36	13	12	11	51	53	38
VOEST Linz	36	10	13	13	45	49	33
Grazer AK	36	10	13	13	44	49	33
Vienna	36	12	8	16	34	54	32
Wiener SC/Post	36	8	15	13	47	61	31
Admira/Wacker	36	8	12	16	45	67	28
Linzer ASK	36	9	10	17	35	58	28

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC BRUGES	34	22	7	5	73	48	51
Anderlecht	34	22	6	6	69	24	50
Standard Liege	34	20	9	5	70	33	49
Lierse	34	21	5	8	70	41	47
Beveren-Waas	34	15	10	9	45	29	40
Beerschot	34	12	15	7	59	41	39
R.W.D. Molenbeek	34	15	6	13	55	46	36
Antwerp FC	34	13	10	11	44	35	36
Winterslag	34	13	8	13	50	56	34
Beringen	34	13	7	14	38	44	33
Waregem	34	12	8	14	43	48	32
SC Charleroi	34	12	5	17	40	56	29
SC Lokeren	34	9	10	15	46	46	28
FC Liege	34	9	10	15	43	48	28
La Louviere	34	9	7	18	29	63	25
KV Kortrijk	34	6	12	16	35	53	24
SV Cercle Bruges	34	4	8	22	24	65	16
FC Boom	34	4	7	23	31	88	15

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MONACO	38	22	9	7	80	46	53
Nantes	38	21	10	7	60	26	52
Strasbourg	38	19	12	7	68	41	50
Marseille	38	20	7	11	70	40	47
Bastia	38	19	6	13	62	44	44
St-Etienne	38	18	6	14	50	49	42
Nancy	38	16	9	13	60	49	41
Nice	38	17	7	14	72	70	41
Sochaux	38	15	10	13	65	54	40
Laval	38	16	7	15	51	57	39
St-Germain	38	14	8	16	75	66	36
Metz	38	13	9	16	41	57	35
Nimes	38	11	11	16	49	43	33
Troyes	38	12	9	17	42	68	33
Valenciennes	38	11	10	17	48	58	32
Reims	38	11	10	17	42	54	32
Bordeaux	38	12	8	18	41	69	32
Lyon	38	12	7	19	55	57	31
Lens	38	12	7	19	56	71	31
Rouen	38	6	5	27	40	91	17



ABOVE... A happy Romeo Benetti of Italian Champions Juventus.

BELOW... Celebrations for 1.FC Cologne's Heinz Flohe and Japanese forward Yasuhiko Okudera.



HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	34	21	11	2	74	21	53
Ajax	34	20	9	5	85	36	49
AZ '67	34	19	9	6	75	30	47
FC Twente	34	18	9	7	61	32	45
Sparta	34	14	12	8	54	33	40
Roda JC	34	12	12	10	41	40	36
Volendam	34	13	8	13	50	58	34
FC Utrecht	34	11	11	12	40	45	33
Vitesse	34	10	13	11	48	62	33
Feyenoord	34	10	12	12	52	47	32
NAC	34	10	11	13	37	51	31
FC Den Haag	34	11	6	17	45	57	28
Haarlem	34	8	12	14	37	55	28
FC VVV	34	9	10	15	46	66	28
NEC	34	10	8	16	39	59	28
Go Ahead Eagles	34	11	5	18	49	53	27
FC Amsterdam	34	9	8	17	41	73	26
Telstar	34	3	8	23	25	81	14

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JUVENTUS TURIN	30	15	14	1	46	17	44
Lanerossi Vicenza	30	14	11	5	50	34	39
Torino	30	14	11	5	36	23	39
Milan	30	12	13	5	38	24	37
Internazionale	30	13	10	7	35	24	36
Napoli	30	8	14	8	35	31	30
Perugia	30	10	10	10	36	35	30
AS Roma	30	8	12	10	31	34	28
Atlanta	30	6	15	9	28	32	27
Verona	30	6	14	10	25	30	26
Lazio Roma	30	8	10	12	30	38	26
Bologna	30	7	12	11	21	32	26
Genoa	30	5	15	10	23	33	25
Fiorentina	30	7	11	12	28	37	25
Foggia	30	8	9	13	28	43	25
Pescara	30	4	9	17	21	44	17

HOW THEY FINISHED IN EUROPE

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WISLA	30	13	13	4	35	23	39
Slask	30	16	6	8	36	30	38
Lech	30	12	13	5	29	25	37
Lks Lodz	30	10	11	9	29	29	31
Legia	30	12	7	11	44	34	31
Odra	30	13	4	13	35	31	30
Arka	30	11	8	11	35	30	30
Stal	30	11	7	12	31	29	29
Zaglebie	30	10	8	12	33	33	28
Widzew	30	9	10	11	34	40	28
Pogon	30	11	6	13	36	42	28
Szombierki	30	8	11	11	25	35	27
Polonia	30	7	13	10	26	26	27
Ruch	30	9	9	12	33	36	27
Zawisza	30	11	5	14	29	32	27
Gornik	30	6	11	13	25	30	23

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R. MADRID	34	22	3	9	77	40	47
Barcelona	34	16	9	9	49	29	41
Ath. Bilbao	34	16	8	10	62	36	40
Valencia	34	16	7	11	54	33	39
S. Gijon	34	15	9	10	53	43	39
At. Madrid	34	16	4	14	61	52	36
Las Palmas	34	12	11	11	43	41	35
Sevilla	34	13	8	13	38	45	34
Salamanca	34	14	6	14	37	40	34
R. Vallecana	34	12	9	13	50	59	33
R. Sociedad	34	12	9	13	52	46	33
Burgos	34	10	11	13	33	47	31
Santander	34	11	9	14	29	45	31
Espanol	34	12	6	16	48	60	30
Hercules	34	10	10	14	32	40	30
Betis	34	11	8	15	51	52	30
Elche	34	11	5	18	44	66	27
Cadiz	34	7	8	19	30	69	22

W. GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC COLOGNE	34	22	4	8	86	41	48
Bor. M'gladbach	34	20	8	6	86	44	48
Hertha Berlin	34	15	10	9	59	48	40
VfB Stuttgart	34	17	5	12	58	40	39
Fortuna Dusseldorf	34	15	9	10	49	36	39
MSV Duisburg	34	15	7	12	62	59	37
Eintracht Frankfurt	34	16	4	14	59	52	36
FC Kaiserlautern	34	16	4	14	64	63	36
Schalke 04	34	14	6	14	48	52	34
Hamburger SV	34	14	6	14	61	67	34
Bor. Dortmund	34	14	5	15	57	71	33
Bayern Munich	34	11	10	13	62	64	32
Eintr. Braunschweig	34	14	4	16	43	53	32
VfL Bochum	34	11	9	14	48	51	31
Werder Bremen	34	13	5	16	48	57	31
1860 München	34	7	8	19	41	60	22
FC Saarbrücken	34	6	10	18	39	70	22
FC St. Pauli	34	6	6	22	44	85	18

**FRANK
GRAY**
Leeds Utd.



SHOOT!